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THE TIMES

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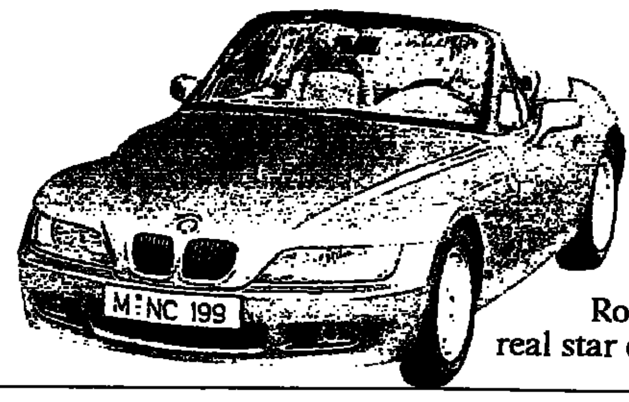

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Details and token, page 42

Woman, 79, trussed up at home is serial muggers' third victim

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

A 79-YEAR-OLD woman found bound and gagged in her freezing home was the victim of a couple who have attacked two other old people in the past five days, police said yesterday.

The latest victim was left trussed up on her sofa and was rescued only because her milkman investigated after noticing that milk he had delivered had not been taken in. Last night detectives linked the attack to two other assaults and called on people in the Birmingham area to check on the safety of their elderly neighbours and relatives.

Daisy Drew, 82, another victim, was left so battered that her family did not recognise her. The robbers got away with just 50p. She was beaten repeatedly and her finger was broken as her attackers tried unsuccessfully to pull off her wedding ring.

Police believe the robbers, a man and a woman in their 20s, attacked the 79-year-old, who has not been named, within hours of assaulting Mrs Drew. All three victims live in the Bordesley Green area of east Birmingham, about ten miles from the city centre. The latest victim was treated at Heartlands Hospital for hypothermia, shock, a black eye, cuts and bruises.

As a result of the attacks, additional police are patrolling parts of Birmingham. Detective Superintendent Roger Conway said the same man and woman were also responsible for robbing Stanley Clarke, 84, on Monday.

After the latest attack, Detective Superintendent Conway said: "The people who did it showed utter disregard for the old woman's safety, particularly as we are currently going through a period of cold weather ... old people are clearly at great risk.

"It is vital that we catch this pair ... as it is quite possible that someone could die before they are done." He added that it was possible the burglars had struck again since the attacks on Wednesday and another victim could be lying unoticed at home.Police are still waiting to talk in detail to the 79-year-old. She lives alone but is known to have at least one child.

So far she has told police that she was putting out some rubbish at about 9.30 on Wednesday evening when her attackers came upon her. They claimed to be relatives. As she began to talk to them, they bundled her inside her home, tied her up and searched the house. Detectives do not yet know everything that is missing, but they think a television set and cash were taken.

Mr Clarke was beaten black and blue after he answered the door at his home and was confronted by the pair, who claimed to be from social services. They said they had come to collect money for a smoke alarm, then followed him inside and attacked him.

Patient in coma may die in dignity

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

DOCTORS were told yesterday to end the life of a young man who faced the prospect of spending another thirty years in a persistent vegetative state after suffering brain damage while having his wisdom teeth out.

Every day, the 27-year-old Welshman is raised from his hospital bed and strapped into a wheelchair. He cannot move his stiff limbs, although his body jerks in response to noise; he is mute and apparently blind, and does not recognise family or friends. Doctors say there is no prospect of any improvement and yesterday a High Court judge agreed that they should stop feeding him so that he can "die with dignity".

The young man, known in court as "C", had been a student in the London area when he suffered brain damage under general anaesthetic at the dentist's in 1991. He had been living with his girlfriend and pursued an active life, enjoying sport.

Now, however, he stays in a small country hospital close to his family home. Although mute, he can cough, choke and sometimes sneeze violently; on occasions he vomits and his face sometimes shows distress. His parents visit frequently, but his girlfriend has stopped going to see him, although she still sends a birthday card.

A consultant at the hospital said that his condition was very severe and there was no prospect of any improvement. If the present "exemplary" standard of medical care was maintained, he might live for another thirty years.

Mr Justice Johnson said yesterday that the patient's parents and sister had accepted that his condition would never change and their love for him required them to reach a very difficult decision. They had said "C" had always been a private and gentle person on a "spiritual quest" whose biggest fear had been losing control. They felt he would not have been able to bear being in his present state and would choose to die.

The judge said that he, too, was sure that "C" had no glimmer of awareness and his interests required the court to order the withdrawal of the artificial administration of nutrient, water and medical treatment. That, he said, "would allow his life to end peacefully and with dignity and with the least harm, suffering and distress".

His decision comes more than two years after the Law Lords ruled that it would be lawful for medical staff to stop feeding the Hillsborough victim Tony Bland, who died peacefully a month later. In that judgment, the Lords drew a distinction between withdrawing treatment and actively ending life — say, by administering drugs — which would be murder.

Yesterday, Mr Justice Johnson said that the hospital must ensure that "C" suffered the least distress and maintained the greatest dignity until his life ended. "The decision which the court is asked to make is as grave as any court can be called upon to make."

The parents had decided in 1994 that treatment should be withdrawn and they were supported by the hospital, the doctors and by the Official Solicitor, who has been appointed by the court to represent the patient's interests.

Dr Keith Andrews of the Royal Hospital for Neurodisability in Putney said there were a number of levels of persistent vegetative state and there was no doubt that "C" was at the lowest.

"I don't know of any evidence from the world of literature or from talking to colleagues of anyone who has ever come out of a vegetative state at this stage at this severity of brain damage," he said. "There is no possible treatment that I know of that will make any difference to the level of physical or mental activity that he has achieved."

JOHN GILES

Workmen spread grit in the North Yorkshire Moors yesterday after snow and blizzards closed the road between Pickering and Whitby

North winds blow away Indian summer

By Paul Wilkinson

WINTER finally arrived yesterday bringing the Indian summer to an abrupt end as icy north winds brought snow to Scotland and the north of England and frosts in the south. The cold snap, which will continue for several days, surprised many but not the Met Office which had been warning for some time that severe winter weather was on the way. More than an inch of snow fell at Aviemore in Scotland and in Northumberland, blocking roads and covering many routes with black ice. Thousands of journeys were disrupted and Newcastle airport was closed for a time. The snow in the northeast came after torrential rain the night before in the biggest single deluge since 1967.

☐ The worst snowstorms for more than two decades hit western Sweden yesterday, closing schools and offices and bringing road, rail and air traffic to a virtual standstill. *(Reuter)*

Forecast, page 24

Steps to recovery for Queen Mother

By Alan Hamilton

QUEEN ELIZABETH the Queen Mother was able to get out of bed yesterday and briefly put weight on her right leg within 36 hours of the operation to replace her hip joint.

The Queen Mother, who at 95 is one of the oldest patients to have undergone hip replacement, was able to take a few steps with the aid of nurses yesterday afternoon. She was seen by doctors in the morning, and judged ready to put weight on the new joint.

The Queen Mother was also judged well enough to have one visitor. Sir Alastair Aird, her private secretary and head of her household at Clarence House, paid a brief call to her private room at the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers in central London. He said on leaving that she appeared well. No other member of the royal family has yet been to see the Queen Mother; the Queen spent yesterday at Sandringham, where she joined a pheasant shoot and picked up birds shot by the Duke of Edinburgh and a group of friends.

Flowers and messages from wellwishers arrived at the hospital throughout the day. The Queen Mother is expected to remain at the hospital for two weeks.

INSIDE

Pride and Prejudice: a mystery

P.D. James invites *Times* readers to solve the great Austen mystery: why was Longbourn's heir apparent not named Bennet?

Letters, page 21

England in Test control

A determined 50 not out by Jack Russell helped England through a difficult patch in the first Test match against South Africa. The wickets of Cork, Gough and Illingworth fell in quick succession, but England finished the day on a healthy 381-9 .... Page 48

Major sends Bruton plan to rekindle Ulster talks

By Philip Webster, Political Editor, and Nicholas Watt

JOHN MAJOR will try to revive the Northern Ireland peace process this weekend by sending fresh proposals to Dublin aimed at breaking the deadlock over the disarming of the IRA.

The Prime Minister's attempt to breathe life into the faltering peace process came as 83 terrorist prisoners were released before the end of their sentences. Eighty men and three women at the top security Maze prison and the province's two other jails at Maghaberry, Co Antrim, and Magilligan, Co Londonderry, were freed early under a revised 50 per cent remission scheme introduced to try to develop the peace process.

Mr Major's plans will include a target date of early next year for the entry of Sinn Fein into all-party talks. They are a reworked version of those prepared for the Anglo-Irish summit in September. The summit was called off by the Irish after Sinn Fein said that it would not co-perate with the body being proposed to deal with the decommissioning of IRA arms.

The hope in London is that the plans will be regarded in Dublin as the basis for progress and enough to dissuade John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, from allowing Sinn Fein to block them for a second time. The reaction in Dublin last night was guarded but sources predicted movement over the next few days.

Mr Major said yesterday that he hoped that a reinstated summit would be held at an early date but ministers later warned privately that courage would be required on all sides if the deadlock was to be broken. London and Dublin sources say it is possible that a summit could be held as early as next week.

Downing Street announced that Mr Major would be tabling proposals "intended to clear the way for an early launch of the twin-track process." The twin-track approach involves the establishment of an American-led decommissioning body alongside preparatory talks involving both governments and Northern Ireland's political parties, leading eventually to substantive all-party talks.

A senior source added in reference to starting the process: "We are ready to move as quickly as possible." Mr Major has drawn up plans which he believes are reasonable

Continued on page 2, col 5

Bishop threatens to resign over cathedral feud

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

THE Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev Robert Hardy, last night threatened to resign if a solution could not be found to the continuing turmoil surrounding the Dean, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson.

After an emergency meeting of senior clergy at the Minster yesterday, the Bishop said: "I have tried to mediate and make a bridge towards the Dean and I have failed. If there is a continuing feud I shall feel it is my responsibility to discuss my position with the Archbishop [of Canterbury, Dr George Carey] and the Crown. And that will be sooner rather than later." The move came after a stormy meeting of cathedral staff on Thursday.

Canon Raymond Rodger, assistant to the Bishop, said after the meeting that the relationship between Dean Jackson and the cathedral was now past reconciliation. He added: "The Dean is appointed by the Queen and the Church of England, so the Bishop cannot ask for his resignation, but discussions between all parties will be taking place."

Earlier this year Dr Jackson, 61, was acquitted of "conduct unbecoming a man in Holy Orders". He successfully denied allegations that he had an affair with Verity Freestone, 32, a former verger.

When Dr Jackson was appointed to Lincoln in 1989, Margaret Thatcher predicted "there will be blood on the carpet". Within a year of his appointment

Continued on page 2, col 5

The Bishop: I have tried and failed

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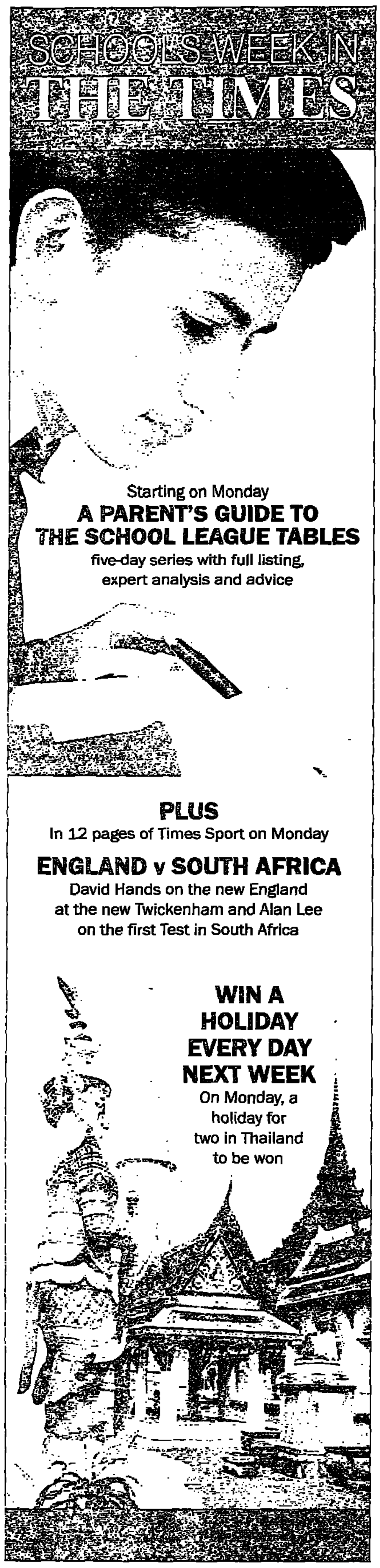
SCHOOLS WEEK IN THE TIMES

Starting on Monday
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PLUS
In 12 pages of Times Sport on Monday
ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA
David Hands on the new England at the new Twickenham and Alan Lee on the first Test in South Africa

WIN A HOLIDAY EVERY DAY NEXT WEEK
On Monday, a holiday for two in Thailand to be won

Tight deadline for galleries to raise £14 million and thwart Getty museum

Export ultimatum for Renaissance treasure

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

British art galleries have been given until January 8 to raise £14 million to save one of the greatest Renaissance masterpieces in private hands in this country. The painting, *The Holy Family with the Infant St John* by Fra Bartolommeo, a Florentine master who inspired Raphael, has been sold for £14 million to the Getty Museum in California by Viscount Gage, to pay for the maintenance of his stately home, Firle Place, near Lewes in Sussex. The export was immediately blocked by the Heritage Department on the ground that the painting is a national treasure.

The price has stunned art experts who fear that there is little chance of any public gallery in this country being able to match the sum. The painting, titled *The Holy Family with the Infant St John*, is one of only two important paintings by Fra Bartolommeo (1472-1517) in Britain.

The sale could prove a test case for the export system in the light of the Getty's unsuccessful bid to acquire a licence for the £7.6 million *Three Graces* last year. It was widely felt that the Government had behaved badly in manipulating the export rules. The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, which advises the heritage department, "strongly urged that every effort should be made to raise the necessary funds to make an offer to purchase arguably the best-preserved painting by Fra Bartolommeo from his finest period, 1508-12".

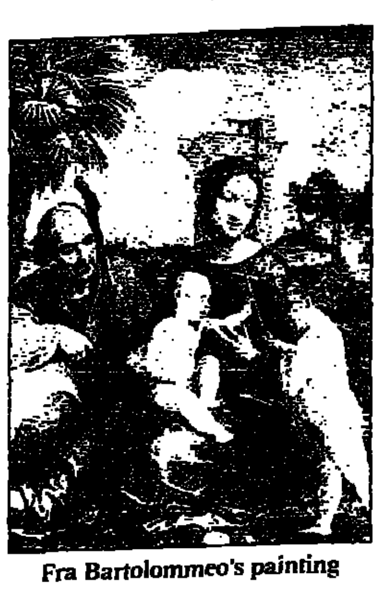
Leading scholars and dealers in the field expressed "total amazement" at the figure of £14 million. "At most, £5 million," one dealer estimated. The record auction-price stands at a mere £279,720, set in 1986 by Sotheby's in New York.

However, as one scholar noted, values are set by what people are prepared to pay for something, and this is possibly the only great Fra Bartolommeo that will ever come on to the market. Another suggested that the price is so far out of the reach of public collections, it is "meant to imply 'let us have it'."

Firle Place, a Tudor house remodelled in the 18th-century, is open to the public in the summer months and boasts a collection of English, Dutch, Flemish and Italian paintings.

Viscount Gage said that *The Holy Family with the Infant St John*, acquired by his grandmother, had hung in their Palladian drawing-room. He explained that dwindling cash in the maintainance fund had forced them follow the example of so many other families with stately homes to upkeep. He mentioned that little of the money raised from the sale of another picture ten years ago was left. He lamented losing the Fra Bartolommeo as it was his "favourite picture".

The trustees agreed that by selling something of such magnitude, there would be no need to dispose of anything else. John Walsh, director of the J Paul Getty Museum, said: "Our paintings collection is very modest in terms of size, and one of its major needs is a Florentine Renaissance masterpiece. This is a superb and beautifully-preserved painting."


Fra Bartolommeo's painting

Major backs plan to give Scots MPs a bigger say

By Philip Webster, political editor

SCOTTISH MPs are likely to be given a bigger role to debate and vote on their own affairs, Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, signalled yesterday.

John Major is understood to be backing a plan to strengthen the role of the Scottish Grand Committee as the Government puts forward its own proposals on constitutional reform to counter Labour's promise of a Scottish parliament.

Mr Forsyth is expected to announce full details in a speech on November 30. He said yesterday that the proposals were aimed at devolving power downwards and making the parliamentary scrutiny of the Scottish Office and Scottish ministers more effective. "What we are talking about here is ensuring we have more scrutiny of Scottish affairs and that ministers are held to account," he told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

The move follows Mr Major's comments at the Conservative Party conference last month that he was looking at ways to improve the government of Scotland.

Mr Forsyth criticised the opposition plans, saying that they would lead ultimately to a fully independent Scotland, and he accused Labour of seeking to alter the constitution for its own electoral purposes.

"If we have a parliament in Scotland, as Labour proposes, with tax raising-powers, then I am afraid we are going to be accelerating the break-up of the United Kingdom," he said. "That is the danger that everyone has to be aware of. I am afraid that Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown are the midwives of separatism."

However, the Tory plans were denounced by the opposition parties. Alex Salmond, the Scottish National Party leader, said that the Tories' limited proposals would serve only to underline the need for a fully independent Scotland. "I think the Prime Minister, by trying to concede more because he realises people won't put up with anything less, is actually underlining the democratic deficit in Scotland.

"Even the Prime Minister cannot seriously believe that a few votes on the Scottish Grand Committee, which could then be over-ruled by London, can satisfy the Scottish demand for real democratic change."

Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, said: "Anything that improves the government of Scotland is welcome but these proposals do not amount to a row of beans.

"Further Tory tinkering is no substitute for a Scottish Parliament. Mr Major's ideas have no real substance and fail to address Scotland's democratic deficit."

George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, said Mr Major's initiative smacked of "a panicky but well-packaged PR stunt".

Mr Robertson added: "If I thought it was going to give real decisive power to Scottish MPs over Scottish legislation, then we would take it seriously.

"But it seems to be little more than a cosmetic operation which is going to do nothing to satisfy the Scottish people, and indeed is likely to inflame opinion as expectations are dashed."

Magnus Linklater, page 10
Leading article, page 21

Thomas Taylor, a loyalist prisoner, is greeted on his release from the Maze jail

Major sets Ulster target

Continued from page 1

and should be acceptable to Dublin and Sinn Fein, informed sources said.

Mr Major's readiness to set a target date — possibly in about three months — for the involvement of Sinn Fein in the substantive talks is welcomed in Dublin, although Sinn Fein has been calling for a fixed date.

Much of the reworking is understood to concern the nature of the preparatory talks. Mr Major believes that one of the key changes since September is that the preparatory talks will now have more meaning because the tabling by the Ulster Unionists of proposals for an Ulster Assembly. Sinn Fein would be able to engage in such talks as an equal partner; it would have "parity of esteem", according to sources.

While London remains insistent that Sinn Fein cannot be admitted to the full talks until the IRA begins giving up weapons, it is willing to move ahead with setting up the decommissioning body and the preparatory talks before that issue is resolved.

London is also opposed to including British arms within the remit of the commission. But in a stance that will also be welcomed in Dublin, the unspoken word in London is that once the body is set up there is nothing to stop Sinn Fein raising any issue, including British arms, with it.

Mr Major's ideas will be presented to Mr Bruton over the weekend and they are expected to speak on the telephone early next week. Ideally they would like to hold a summit before President Clinton's expected visit to Britain and Ireland at the end of the month, but sources said there was no deadline.

Bishop threatens to quit

Continued from page 1

he was reprimanded by the Bishop after an investigation into a loss-making trip to Australia by the sub-dean, Canon Rex Davis, with the Lincoln copy of Magna Carta.

A bitter dispute arose between the Dean on one side and the four residentiary canons on the other, leading to a visitation by the Bishop.

A bishop is appointed by the Queen, after two names are chosen by a church body, the Crown Appointments Commission. The Dean of Lincoln is also appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the prime minister, in Dr Jackson's case Margaret Thatcher.

The bishop has jurisdiction over the diocese but not over the cathedral and is unable to sack the Dean or any of the canons, who have "a job for life" which means until retirement, by virtue of their freehold. The Dean has jurisdiction over the cathedral but, for the same reason concerning the freehold, is unable to sack his canons. The canons are appointed by the Bishop acting in his role as head of the diocese.

At Lincoln, the situation is further confused because according to cathedral rules the dean and his canons all have equal voting rights within the chapter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prescott lodges Nicholls complaint

John Prescott, the Labour deputy leader, lodged a formal complaint yesterday with Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, over the conduct of Patrick Nicholls, Tory MP for Teignbridge.

Mr Nicholls is alleged to have offered to use his influence in Whitehall to act for a private company in return for shares. Mr Nicholls has claimed he acted in accordance with the rules governing MPs' interests.

Shell picket plan

Environmental and human rights campaigners plan to picket Shell petrol stations today in protest at the company's £2.5 billion deal with Nigeria. They will ask customers to buy their petrol elsewhere and demand an official oil embargo.

Mother jailed

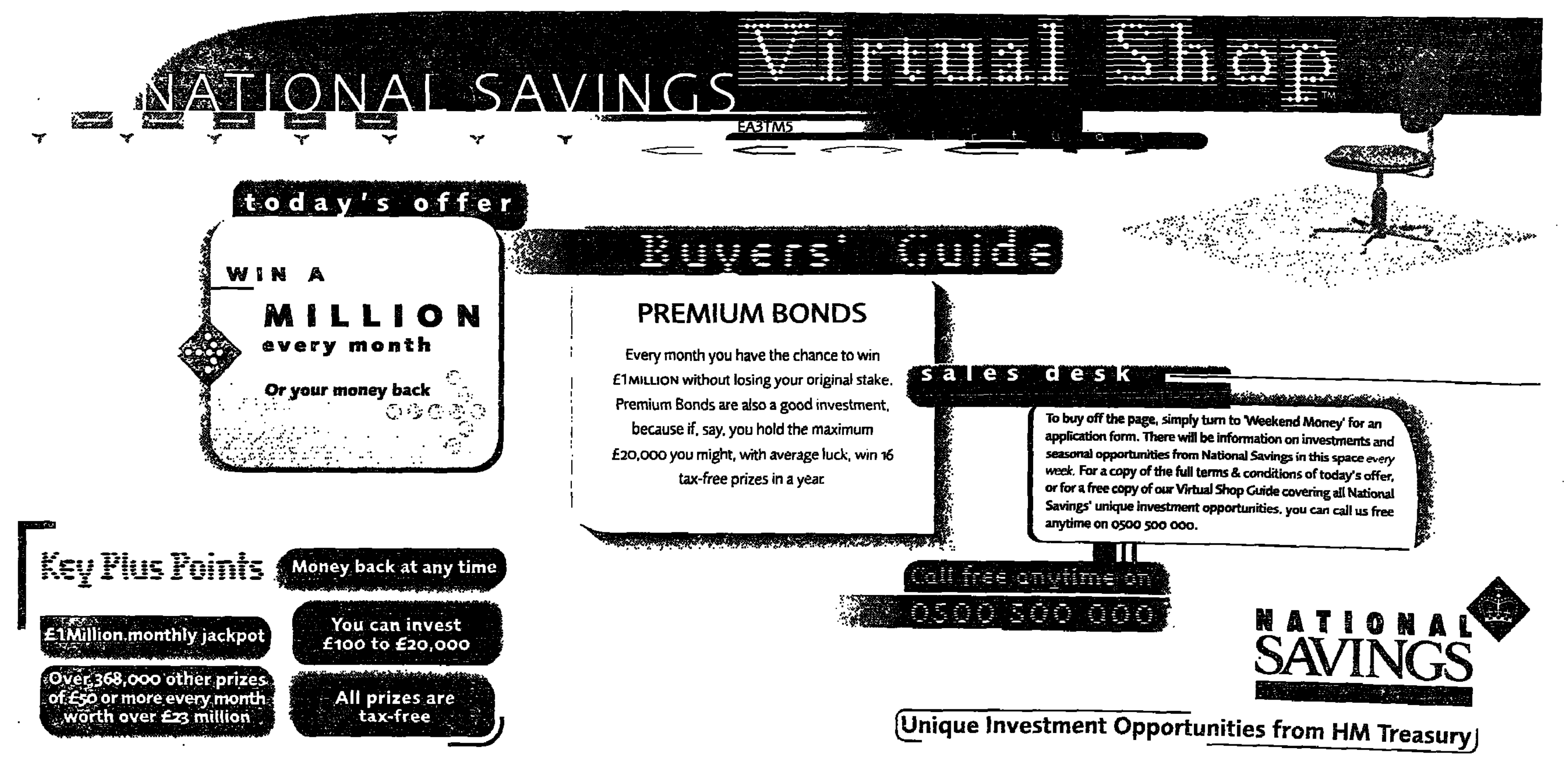
A single mother who claimed she became a drug courier to pay for her three-year-old son's Christmas was jailed for 4½ years by Southwark Crown Court. Susan Ellis, 35, of Rusholme, Manchester, was caught with heroin worth £100,000.

Video rewind

The BBC withdrew an announcement that *Panorama*'s Princess of Wales interview was to go on sale as a video. BBC Worldwide Enterprises staff announced the move; Nicholas Chapman, the managing director, said no decision had been made.

Hitman guilty

Raymond Johnson, 24, of Walworth, south London, was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm and remanded for reports yesterday, for disfiguring a woman's face with a knife after being hired by a jealous office rival.



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'They encourage you to borrow, suddenly ask for it back, then clobber you for interest'

Couple must pay £300,000 to bank they challenged

By Andrew Pierce

A COUPLE face financial ruin after being ordered to pay £300,000 to a bank they blame for the £1 million collapse of their businesses. Nigel Green, 42, and Yvonne Challis, 41, yesterday lost their case for breach of contract against Barclays, which they had sued after large loans were recalled without notice by a new branch manager.

Judge Gibbon, sitting at the High Court in Cardiff, said that he understood the frustration of the couple from Llanllwni, Dyfed, but in a 25-page judgment he ruled that the bank "made a commercial decision it was perfectly entitled to make".

If it continued to support the couple's enterprises it would have been "throwing good money after bad".

Mr Green, who has received letters of support from all over the country, said: "Banks cannot be allowed to encourage you to go into business, borrow their money, suddenly ask for it all back without a moment's notice, and watch all that hard work go down the drain. Then they want to clobber you for the interest. I know which side most people would support."

George: he "pulled the plug" on loans

The couple had enjoyed an excellent relationship with Mervyn Jones, their Barclays branch manager, who was described in court as a "pantomime fairy godmother". Mr Jones, who was later sacked for incompetence, lent money to the couple and set up overdraft facilities so they could establish a horse-riding and road haulage business from their home over a period of eight months in 1991.

Most agreements were made over the telephone, or on a handshake, and little was ever put in writing, the court heard. But Mr Jones was replaced in August 1991, after suffering a breakdown, and never returned to the company.

From that moment, Barclays stopped looking favourably on the couple. Hywel George, the new manager of the Llandovery branch in Dyfed, rapidly decided not to honour his predecessor's financial arrangements.

Mr George took over only months after Mr Green claimed had been given the go-ahead by the bank to buy two lorries worth £129,000. The court was told that Mr George "pulled the plug". Loans were recalled and cheques and direct debits were stopped immediately. The two businesses collapsed with debts of almost £1 million.

Mr Green and Miss Challis sued Barclays for breach of contract.

Their claim failed. Barclays sued them for the repayment of loans, with interest, amounting to £311,864. Their claim was upheld. They are now suing the bank for giving bad advice.

Judge Gibbon, in his judgment, said: "In the end, after a thorough investigation, the bank made a commercial decision not to support him further, a decision they were perfectly entitled to make."

Nigel Green and Yvonne Challis: their road haulage and horse-riding businesses failed as loans were recalled

Judge Gibbon said that Mr Jones was "reasonably intelligent as bank managers usually are". He had submitted a statement but "at the time it was made, he was a sick man and suffering from an acute anxiety and stress condition. I bear in mind that he was dismissed by the bank for incompetence and misconduct but dishonesty was not one of the grounds for dismissal".

Mr Jones is now working as an independent financial adviser in west Wales. Judge Gibbon said Mr Green was "clearly a confident, intelligent, quick-thinking and articulate man but was regrettably a reckless witness".

Businessmen accepted that banks would not withdraw their support without good reason. "If a bank did act in this way without good cause, it would damage its reputation and harm its business. That is the commercial reality of a bank customer relationship. In law, the loan was repayable on demand," he added.

After the hearing, Mr Green said: "We have come out of this nearly a third of a million pounds worse off than when we went in. But it was a fight worth fighting. You have got to make a stand against these people. We are penniless and will never be able to clear our debts." He revealed that before the case Barclays offered to write-off debts of £220,000. But the couple refused.

Gareth George, director of Barclays in Wales, said the bank was pleased with the result but he regretted the case had gone to court.

He added: "We do not want this to affect our relationship with our customers."

Buskers fall foul of insurance ruling

By A Staff Reporter

BUSKERS in Peterborough will have to get public liability insurance after a woman tripped over a collection box and broke a kneecap.

Sylvia Wheeler, 46, who is partially sighted, has been off work as a catering assistant since the accident in September which has left her in constant pain. "I was walking through a pedestrian zone when I tripped over something and felt a terrible pain in my leg," Mrs Wheeler said.

"There was change all over the floor and I realised I had tripped over this busker's money box. I was in plaster for a month and I'm still off work but I can't get compensation. The council say it is nothing to do with them and the busker wasn't insured."

It was the realisation that she will get no compensation that prompted Peterborough City Council to act. If buskers cannot produce an insurance certificate they will be told to move on.

The council said: "We have introduced the code to protect the public and buskers. The lady had a valid point and we have moved to make sure it won't happen again."

Drunk driver is given six years for killing boy

By A Staff Reporter

A DRUNK driver who mowed down a family of four on a pavement, killing a seven-year-old boy, was jailed for six years yesterday and banned from driving for ten years. Tony Cain, 34, had been on a day-long alcoholic binge when he crashed into the family in Barnstaple, Devon.

David Powell, 7, died in the accident and his parents Brian and Sylvia were seriously hurt. Their baby son Steven, then six months, was thrown clear of his pushchair and was unhurt.

Cain, a carpenter from Barnstaple, was still about four times the legal driving limit more than four hours after the accident in April, Brian Lett, for the prosecution, told Exeter Crown Court. Cain was sentenced after earlier admitting causing death by dangerous driving, taking a vehicle without consent and failing to provide a specimen for analysis.

Mr Lett said that Cain, who has not passed a driving test, was unemployed until the beginning of April, but then found work and started drinking heavily. He began drinking on the morning of the accident and was seen drunk at lunch-time near a removal van in which he later drove off through the streets of Barnstaple.

Witnesses said he was driving in a drunken and incompetent manner. At one point the van was seen swerving from side to side, before striking a glancing blow against railings behind which pedestrians were waiting. He did not stop after that incident, Mr Lett said. At about 2pm the Powell family were walking along a pavement not far from the police station when Cain appeared, travelling towards them. His van left the road and mounted the pavement at about 30mph.

"The defendant drove quite literally straight through the Powell family and hit them all," Mr Lett said. Mr Powell suffered a fractured wrist and pelvis, and shoulder and arm injuries. He had been left partially blind in his left eye. Mrs Powell suffered a fractured right femur, which had left her with a limp.

After the accident Cain accelerated away, despite a shattered windscreen on the driver's side. He stopped near a pub and ran off when confronted. He was arrested later and admitted taking the van but said he had no recollection of hitting the Powells.

☐ A drink-driver who provoked a public outcry when his victim had to be taken by helicopter from Kent to Leeds because there were no neurosurgical beds available in southeast England was jailed for six years at the Old Bailey yesterday. Samuel Ripley, 34, denied murdering his friend Malcolm Murray, 45, but admitted manslaughter.

He drove his van at Mr Murray after they had spent the evening in a pub. His alcohol level was found to be three times over the legal driving limit.

Birds fly home after aviarists make deal

By Alan Hamilton

A FLOCK of parrots can kill a friendship, but they are not worth going to jail over, a court heard yesterday. Two rival aviarists reached a compromise at Stafford Crown Court over the custody of 15 parrots, two dogs and a cage full of hurt feelings.

Debbie Walton, of Haslingden, Lancashire, who acted as a foster-mother to the livestock while their true owner went through divorce proceedings, faced jail for defying a court order to hand them back. Their rightful owner, Marion Thallon-Cave, who runs a parrot sanctuary in Stafford, told the court yesterday that she could not bear to see her former friend caged and would accept the return of half the birds.

Both parties signed an agreement to end the legal proceedings. Mrs Walton renounced a claim to Sinbad, a blue-fronted Amazon, and Mrs Thallon-Cave agreed not to pursue the matter of eight missing birds.

Two months ago Judge Allardice, in the same court, heard that Mrs Thallon-Cave had handed over 15 birds worth £10,000, and their guard dogs Sadie and Theo, to Mrs Walton to look after. Mrs Walton later refused to return them, claiming they were a gift.

Mrs Thallon-Cave has now recovered seven parrots and both dogs; Rocky and Mabel, a pair of African greys, are still missing.

Westminster stress leaves members short of passion

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

OVERSTRESSED MPs are losing their sex drive and drinking too much, according to a study to be published next week.

Despite having had their Commons hours reduced, MPs are suffering greater pressure of work and less job satisfaction and are unable to spend enough time at home. The first psychological study of MPs since shorter Commons weeks were introduced shows that their health, job performance and home life is suffering more than in 1992, when previous research was carried out.

More than one in three MPs say that their interest in sex has declined, while almost half speak of over-eating, excessive drinking, tiredness or exhaustion. Almost all the 93 MPs who responded to a questionnaire said that they did not spend enough time with their partners and children. However, most felt they could rely on family support and could take work home with them.

The research by Ashley Weinberg, an occupational psychologist at Manchester University, follows the introduction of shorter working hours last January. The experiment to phase out late-night sittings, based on a report by the Jopling committee, has now led to permanent changes in Commons hours.

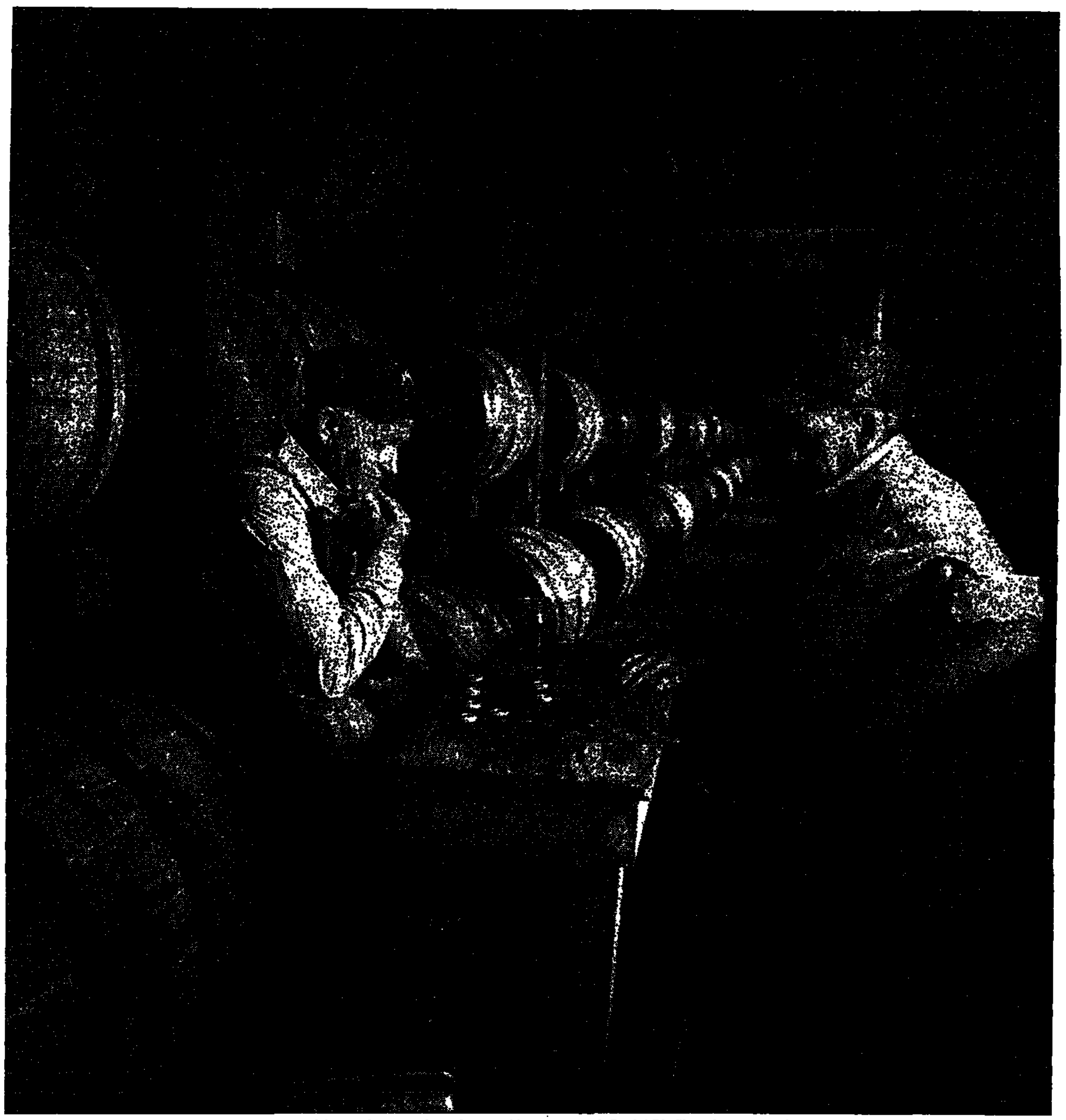
According to the research, the worst-affected MP is, on average, aged between 30 and 39 or with a constituency more than 400 miles from the Commons. Long journey times and career ambitions among younger MPs are blamed for high levels of stress.

In the wake of last week's decision by MPs to curb outside business interests, it turns out that those members who spend between ten and 30 hours a week working outside the Commons report lower levels of physical stress than colleagues concentrating solely on parliamentary matters.

The study, to be published in Monday's issue of *The House Magazine*, which covers parliamentary matters, shows that, although politicians admit the reduction in Commons hours makes life easier, almost all MPs work for more than 50 hours a week.

Almost half work more than 70 hours and over half spend more than 20 hours on outside work each week. An increase in constituency work, administration and select committee duties are blamed for increased stress and Mr Weinberg suggests that there should be a further review of MPs' workloads.

He adds that job insecurity might be preying on MPs' minds as a general election approaches.



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IF CHECKERS ever gets to be an international sport, we probably have a couple of gold medalists here at Jack Daniel Distillery.

Our employees have plenty of time to practice. Truth is, there's not much else to do while we're waiting for our whiskey to age. So we work on our crowns and jumps and storytelling, while the Tennessee Whiskey inside our charred oak barrels gains the rareness you've come to expect. Hurrying only harms good whiskey; according to these men, it's not much help to a checker player, either.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Oxford college rejects attack on funding

By David Charter

AN OXFORD don is calling for a review of university fund-raising today after alleging links between a noted professorship and Nazi Germany. Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, writing in *The Times*, said Oxford authorities should think again about naming its chair in European Thought the Flick Professorship.

Mr Pinto-Duschinsky, a renowned scholar of political funding, said he was researching a paper on ethics for Balliol College when he foind that the professorship funded by a substantial donation from Dr Gert-Rudolph Flick, grandson of the German industrialist Friedrich Flick, an adviser to Heinrich Himmler.

Friedrich Flick was imprisoned at the end of the war but released in 1950 and built a large industrial empire. Mr Pinto-Duschinsky claims that he never repented for wartime activities which included using 40,000 "slave labourers".

Oxford University told *The Times* that it had set up an ethics committee in 1989 to consider any questions over the source of funds. The university had been unaware of the wartime role of Friedrich Flick when his grandson's money was accepted in 1991, but concerns about the donation were referred to the committee this year.

A spokeswoman said: "The committee found no grounds for associating the name of Dr Gert-Rudolph Flick with the appalling events in Germany in the 1930s. Dr Flick's abhorrence of a dark period in the family history is very clear."

The University was unable to state the exact value of the donation, which is believed to be about £350,000 over five years.

Why honour, page 20

I gave her mouth-to-mouth but I knew she was not alive, inquest is told

Tony Marlow tells of desperate efforts to revive drowned wife

By Emma Wilkins

THE Conservative MP Tony Marlow told a coroner's court yesterday how he tried desperately to revive his wife after he found her floating face down in the sea during a Greek island holiday.

Catherine Marlow, 54, drowned the morning after drinking wine with her husband in her favourite holiday spot on Zakynthos, the inquest was told. The couple had gone swimming after breakfast, but Mr Marlow left the sea and later went fishing. At first he assumed his wife had gone for a walk. Later he became increasingly concerned and returned to the spot where he had left her.

"I retraced where we had been swimming. I saw a pallet floating in the water. Then I saw what I thought was another pallet. I realised it was Catherine, floating face down in the water.

"She was by some rocks. I turned her on her back and froth was coming out of her mouth. I tried to give her mouth-to-mouth, but I knew she was not alive," he told the inquest at Northampton General Hospital.

The couple, who had five children, were holidaying with Mrs Marlow's sister, who is married to Nicos Petropoulos, a Greek businessman. Mrs Marlow spent the evening before her death drinking wine with her husband. "We had a bottle of some sort of Greek wine concoction. It had been left by her sister," Mr Marlow said.

The next morning, October 1, Mrs Marlow had a substantial breakfast of coffee, bread, tomatoes, green peppers and feta cheese in olive oil. Between ten to twenty minutes later, she and her husband went swimming off Skinari.

Mr Marlow, a leading Euro-sceptic who has been MP for Northampton North since 1979, said his wife was a keen swimmer who liked snorkelling. They started swimming together, but Mr Marlow later decided to strike out on his own, leaving his wife snorkelling.

He later swam back past the spot where he had left his wife, but when he did not see her he assumed she had got out of the water. Later he began searching for his wife and found her body after two hours.

It was taken to Athens, where the coroner said she had suffered a heart attack and drowned. Dr Clive Bouch, a Home Office pathologist who carried out a second postmortem examination in England, said: "There was some alcohol present and it appears from the information given to me that she had a fairly substantial breakfast. The combination of that and then going swimming may have caused her to get into difficulties." Small bruises to Mrs Marlow's forehead and leg could have been caused when her body was knocked against rocks, Dr Bouch said.

Mr Marlow, 55, appeared composed as Anne Pember, the Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death. After the inquest he said his wife adored visiting her sister on Zakynthos. "It was her sister's house. It was a beautiful place. Outside the UK, it was her favourite place in the whole world."

The couple, who married in 1962, lived at a farm in Willoughby, Warwickshire. Their three boys and two girls are grown up. Mrs Marlow, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, took early retirement from her job as a medical social worker with Northamptonshire County Council shortly before her death.

For the past ten years, Mr Marlow has divided his time by spending weekends at home in his constituency and weekdays with his secretary, Jill Chambers, with whom he has four other children. Ms Chambers was not at the inquest yesterday.

Catherine Marlow in Zakynthos with her brother-in-law Nicos and his grand-daughter Katerina

REBECCA NADEN

Tony Marlow: he assumed his missing wife had gone shopping or for a walk

Leaders of the Bar dilute clients' complaint scheme

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

PLANS for barristers' clients to be able to claim compensation for shoddy work have been diluted to gain the profession's backing next week.

Leaders of the Bar have redrawn the scheme for a complaints system to make it far harder to lodge a successful compensation claim against a barrister. The Criminal Bar Association had given warning that the original proposals would produce a deluge of compensation claims from every convicted prisoner with nothing better to do. However, consumer bodies have criticised the amendments, arguing that even in its original form the scheme offered inadequate remedies for shoddy service from barristers.

The Bar scheme enables people for the first time to lodge complaints about inadequate service by barristers, and be paid compensation of up to £2,000. At present the Bar will consider only the most serious complaints amounting to professional misconduct and no compensation is payable.

But under the revised scheme, which goes before an open meeting of the Bar next Tuesday, people can claim compensation only if they can prove they have suffered actual monetary loss. Second, the test of "inadequate professional service" has been tightened, so that complaints will be limited to conduct which falls "significantly short of that which is to be reasonably expected of a barrister in all the circumstances".

This means that a breach of the barrister's code of conduct might not necessarily amount to "inadequate professional service". Behaviour that might be covered includes late return of briefs or failure to serve documents on time.

The scheme is also far more restrictive than that originally proposed by a committee under Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, a former Bar chairman. That committee said that barristers' immunity from being sued over their work in court should not apply to lesser complaints of shoddy work. People would therefore have been able to complain about work in court, as well as out of it.

But the Bar has refused to accept that recommendation. Its proposed scheme says the immunity should apply even to lesser complaints of shoddy work. That means people will be restricted to complaining about a barrister's work outside the courtroom.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, the Bar chairman, said the concerns of the profession had been taken on board to produce a scheme that "balanced the interests of the public with those of the barrister". He would fight to get the revised proposals through. At present, people who suffered from shoddy work were left with the "barren satisfaction" of seeing the barrister disciplined, suspended or disbarred. "That is no satisfaction for the client at all." He gave warning that, without any kind of scheme, the Bar risked being regulated by a quango.

Keith Richards, senior lawyer at the Consumers' Association, said: "Lord Alexander's proposals went a long way towards satisfying the requirements of a proper complaints system. What we have now is a complete sham."

Alexander: produced original proposals

NEWS IN BRIEF

Robbers who killed are jailed for life

Three armed robbers, Shiraz Bhayat, 21, Neville Andrews, 27, both of Stoke Newington, north London, and Junior Willis, 27, of Leyton, east London, were jailed for life by the Old Bailey for the murder of a security repair man during a jewellery shop raid. Leyland Hoppie, 46, of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, was shot in the back at close range as he lay on the ground. The video camera he had just mended helped to catch his killers, who escaped with jewellery worth £15,000.

Nuts withdrawn

Tens of thousands of bags of Sainsbury's dry-roasted peanuts have been withdrawn from shelves and destroyed after metal filings were found in packets. The nuts were on sale for less than a week and bore a "Best Before date" of January and February 1996.

Jockey fined

The jockey Walter Swinburn escaped a driving ban yesterday after telling magistrates in Newmarket, Suffolk, he had not intended to drive when police found him drunk in his car. He admitted failing to provide a breath test and he was fined £480.

Rapist convicted

Peter Morrisey, 47, of Norris Green, Liverpool, was jailed for three years for raping a young teenage girl almost 30 years go. Morrisey, who was a heavy drinker at that time, claimed he had no memory of the offences but he admitted three specimen charges.

Hush-hush flight

Britain's quietest large passenger jet took off on its maiden flight from Heathrow for Dubai yesterday. The BA Boeing 777 is a third quieter and 10 per cent more fuel efficient than the 747. The airline has ordered 14 more with options on another 15.

Drug boys safe

Two 15-year-old boys taken ill after a drug overdose had swallowed a prescription anti-depressant, police said. The boys, from Leigh Park, Havant, Hampshire, were expected to be allowed home yesterday from Queen Alexandra Hospital in Cosham.

Tall story

John Evans, a builder, set a world record yesterday by balancing 67 bricks on his head. Mr Evans, 48, of Marlpool, Derbyshire, held up the 297lb weight for 15 seconds. He acquired the skill as a teenage labourer carrying bricks up ladders.

Pen tops without holes cost £2,000 fine

By A Staff Reporter

THE pen manufacturer Pentel was fined £2,000 by York magistrates yesterday for supplying fibre-tipped pens with unventilated caps.

The case against Pentel was brought by the trading standards department of North Yorkshire County Council, which contended that children could choke if they swallowed caps without air holes. Stuart Pudney, for the prosecution, told the court that 12 children had died in such a way since 1970.

It was natural human behaviour to suck or chew a pen top and, if a child inhaled an unventilated one, it was a potential killer.

"If it has an air hole, then you can buy yourself time to get to hospital and have it removed," Mr Pudney said.

After the hearing a trading standards officer said the council had decided to crack down after Andrew Weeks, 12, died in York after choking on a pen top last February, although the cap in that case was not made by Pentel.

An air hole was needed only if the cap had no pocket-clip attached. If there were such a clip, the gap between it and the cap would allow passage of enough air to keep a person alive until the obstruction was removed from the throat of the victim.

Junetta Gibbs, for Pentel, which sells ten million implements a year, said the company took its responsibilities seriously and had withdrawn the offending pens from the market.

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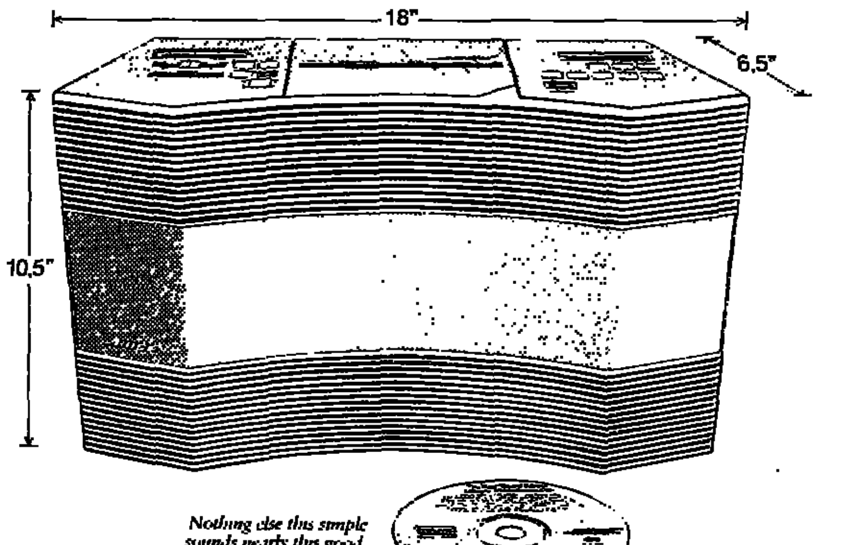
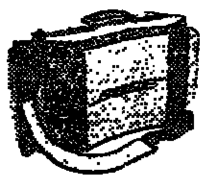


Nothing else this simple sounds nearly this good.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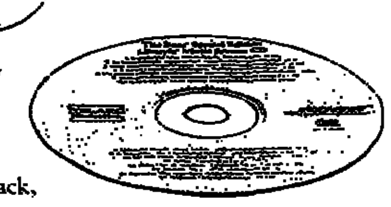

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Any woman approaching or going through the menopause today has the option of taking HRT – the biggest (and most controversial) issue in women's health since the advent of the Pill. *Understanding HRT and the Menopause* arms you with the essential facts to decide if it's right for you.

This invaluable guide from *Which?* will help you weigh up for yourself the pros and cons of hormone replacement therapy. Honest, reliable, informative and highly readable, it looks at many vital issues, including • symptoms and signs of the menopause • managing the menopause with or without HRT • breast cancer and the links between cancer and hormone treatment • osteoporosis • the importance of diet, exercise and stress management • the need for regular screening and health checks • and more besides!

Understanding HRT and the Menopause gives women the opportunity to take control at a challenging time in their lives and make a truly informed, responsible decision about their health. The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux went so far as to say it 'would recommend it unreservedly to all women'. This vital book costs just £9.99 (P&P FREE), so why not order your copy NOW using the order form below? Orders are normally despatched within 14 days of receipt. Full refund if not satisfied.

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Did you know that men tend to be less healthy than women, and that they run a higher risk of dying early from preventable conditions? So isn't it time that men started taking as much interest in their health as women do? *The Which? Guide to Men's Health* is the ideal book to put them on the right track. It offers positive, practical advice on matters physical, emotional and sexual. Complete with an A-Z of men-only ailments and other disorders which can affect men, it explains treatments available and provides advice and reassurance on common conditions such as heart disease, strokes and prostate disorders. It also looks at • self-examination methods to detect early signs of disease • self-help measures for everyday problems such as hair loss, bad breath and body odour • sexual problems – and how to tackle them • ways of preventing stress overload • diet and exercise • fatherhood – with advice that will benefit both partners! Your health is so important – don't you owe it to yourself to invest in a copy of this essential guide? It costs just £9.99 (P&P FREE), so why not order your copy NOW using the order form below? Orders are normally despatched within 14 days of receipt. Full refund if not satisfied.

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هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Young hopefuls take on Hollywood with supernatural thriller costing only £15,000

STUDIO
PRODUCTION
DEVIL'S HARVEST
DIRECTOR
CAMERA
DATE
SCENE
TAKE

Persuasive: Oliver Ronicle, left, and Mathew Coombs, the producers

Absolute beginners produce star-studded film in a pub

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

A BRITISH film is taking on the might of Hollywood with a budget of just £15,000. The stars, Brian Blessed and Julie T. Wallace, have agreed to appear free in the supernatural thriller, which is being shot in a village pub.

The full-length feature, which has the working title *Devil's Harvest*, will be screened at the Cannes Film Festival next year. Blessed, whose next role is the ghost in Kenneth Branagh's £20 million *Hamlet*, plays a country vicar.

The producers, Oliver Ronicle, 22, who wrote the original script, and Matthew Coombs, 27, begged funds from friends and local Somerset businessmen, and believe it is the lowest budget for a full-length film. The 12-strong crew, the production team and the actors have all agreed to take no pay until the film goes into profit. Both stars were impressed with the pair's enthusiasm. Blessed, whose screen successes include *Robin of Sherwood* alongside Kevin Costner, said: "In this case, small is beautiful. This may be a £15,000 production, but I don't consider Hamlet superior.

"I think this is a phenomenal achievement. It is magnificent that these young people have got together as a team. It won't be a perfect film but it will be a terrific piece."

Blessed and Wallace: performing without a fee to help to encourage the British film industry

The story of a priest's battle with evil is being filmed in the Somerset village of Appleby, near Wellington. The Globe and a nearby house are used as the main sets. Wallace, who found fame in the TV version of Fay Weldon's *Life and Loves of a She Devil*, plays a mysterious pub landlady. She said: "The script is good and it is great that people are getting up off their backsides and doing something. There is not a lot going on in the industry in London so I jumped at the chance."

The film is the first production by Mainframe Pictures but does not yet have a distribution deal. Mr Coombs, a former backstage worker, of Bishop's Lydeard, Somerset, dropped out of an arts degree course in Taunton to concentrate on the film.

He met Mr Ronicle, of Taunton, through a friend at Aberystwyth, where he was studying theatre design and television. His script was redrafted by Jamie Roland, who is at university in Birmingham. Mr Ronicle said: "It is quite possibly the lowest budget feature film in history.

"It was a great boost when Brian and Julie agreed to take part, because people in the industry had to take us seriously. Support from the village has been phenomenal."

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE
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The Pill is in trouble.
Even the modern
lowest-dose variety is
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dangerous. It may be
a hard fact to
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could be over

*A special report in
the Magazine —
The Sunday Times
tomorrow*

Skeleton mystery may be unsolved, says West judge

By Richard Duce

THE Rosemary West murder trial was told yesterday that the mystery of the victims' missing bones may never be solved.

Pieces were missing from each of the ten girls and young women whose remains were uncovered by police. Mr Justice Mantell suggested to the jury that deliberate mutilation was the only explanation for the curious feature in the case.

However, he told the jury: "Don't speculate. It's just one of those holes in the case which will never be filled." The judge was speaking on the second day of his summing-up at Winchester Crown Court, where Mrs West, 41, denies all the murders.

Mrs West's eldest daughter Heather, 16, and her stepdaughter Charmaine, 8, were among seven of the people who had one or both kneecaps missing, the jury has been told. The judge said it seemed beyond question that the bones were routinely removed — "for what reason, who knows?" In some cases, the majority of wrist, ankle, finger and toe bones were missing when police diggers recovered remains at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and Mrs West's former home near by at Midland Road.

"The only explanation would appear that it could only be the result of deliberate mutilation," he said. "How else would you lose kneecaps from a complete body, and to what end?" If such was the case, the jury would have to consider the process and length of time involved.

Summing up evidence on six of the alleged victims, the judge told the seven men and four women of the jury not to draw any adverse inference from Mrs West's silence during police interviews which followed a formal caution and advice from a solicitor. "She is perfectly entitled to do that," he said.

Dealing with the murder of Heather, who was found decapitated and dismembered, the judge referred to Mrs West's reaction when told that Frederick, her husband, had confessed. Defence counsel had described the response as that of a woman greatly distressed, while the prosecution said it was an "Oscar-winning performance".

The seven-week trial was adjourned until Monday morning when the judge will complete his summing-up and will send out the jury to consider its verdicts. Jury members have been told to bring suitcases with them for an overnight stay.

Mrs West denies that she and her late husband, 53, were jointly involved in a sustained campaign of violent sexual attacks on teenage girls at Cromwell Street.

Court stops clerk from selling story

THE solicitor who represented Frederick West for nearly five months after his arrest was granted a permanent High Court injunction yesterday, banning a former clerk from disclosing confidential information about West to the media.

Howard Ogden learnt in January that Scott Canavan was trying to sell copies of notes Mr Ogden took while attending interviews between West and the police. Mr Ogden obtained a temporary injunction and also sued Mr Canavan for breach of confidence and contract, and for wrongful interference with property.

The injunction became permanent yesterday when Mr Ogden was granted summary judgment in default of any defence being filed by Mr Canavan.

URGENT PUBLIC AUCTION
IN AIR CARGO WAREHOUSE LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT
Under Engrossment of Sequestration Judgement ARV.49.391/VZ. 595 in Antwerp Court of First Instance, 31-05-95, re. Article 584 Juridical Code & Articles 1961,1°, 1982, 1983 Civil Code, in compliance with instructions of M. Michael Couvreur, the Appointed Sequestrator
ENTIRE STOCK OF ORIENTAL CARPET WAREHOUSE
SEIZED UNDER PREVENTIVE DISTRAINT
removed from warehouse under police supervision and
placed in custody of Official Sequestrator at City Bailiffs' Auction Depot
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Fine European Retail Calibre Certified Genuine Handmade
PERSIAN & ORIENTAL
CARPETS, RUGS, RUNNERS
Mixed sizes up to 4m x 3m - Qualities listed Medium, Fine and Extra Fine - Pile contents 100% Wool, 100% Pure Silk, 95% Wool/5% Silk - described as Persian Isphahan, Persian Silk Ghoom, Persian Tabriz, Persian Part Silk Nain, Turkish Kars, Kashmir Silk Srinagar, Persian Gashgay, Afghan Filpa, Moroccan Berber, Persian Golloch, Persian Keshan, etc.
These valuable items confiscated out of urgency and necessity under
Deed of Preventive Distraint issued following ex parte application to
Distraining Judge in Antwerp Court of the First Instance ordered to be
sold piece-by-piece at public auction with other items to mitigate legal
and statutory costs involved in complying with release procedures as
stipulated under Article 1408 § 3 of the Legal Code
mainly without any minumum reserves
PUBLIC AUCTION
Sunday 19 November at 11 a.m. exactly
Sequestered stock packed in bales A1/6-6/6 to be tagged & displayed for
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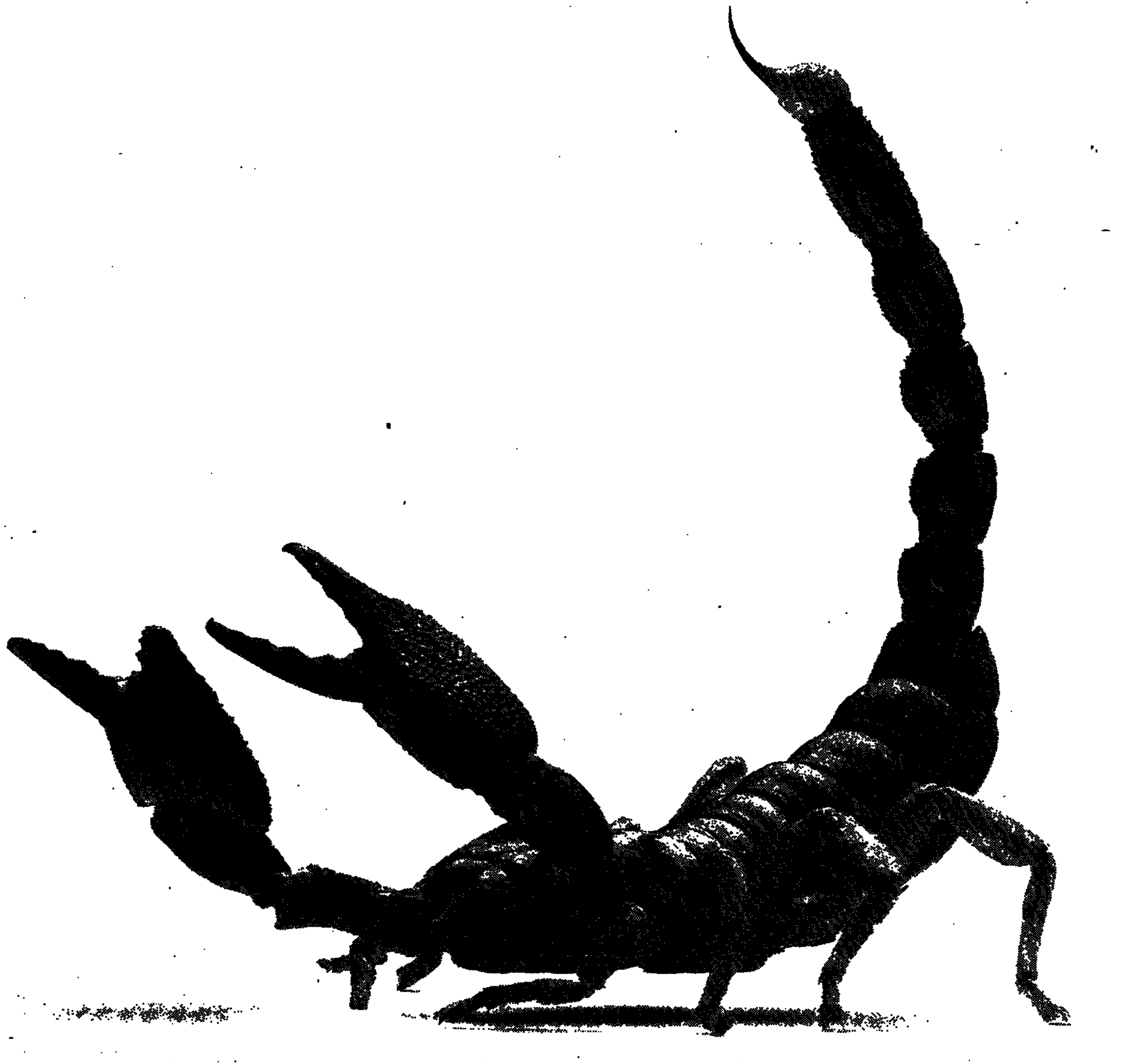

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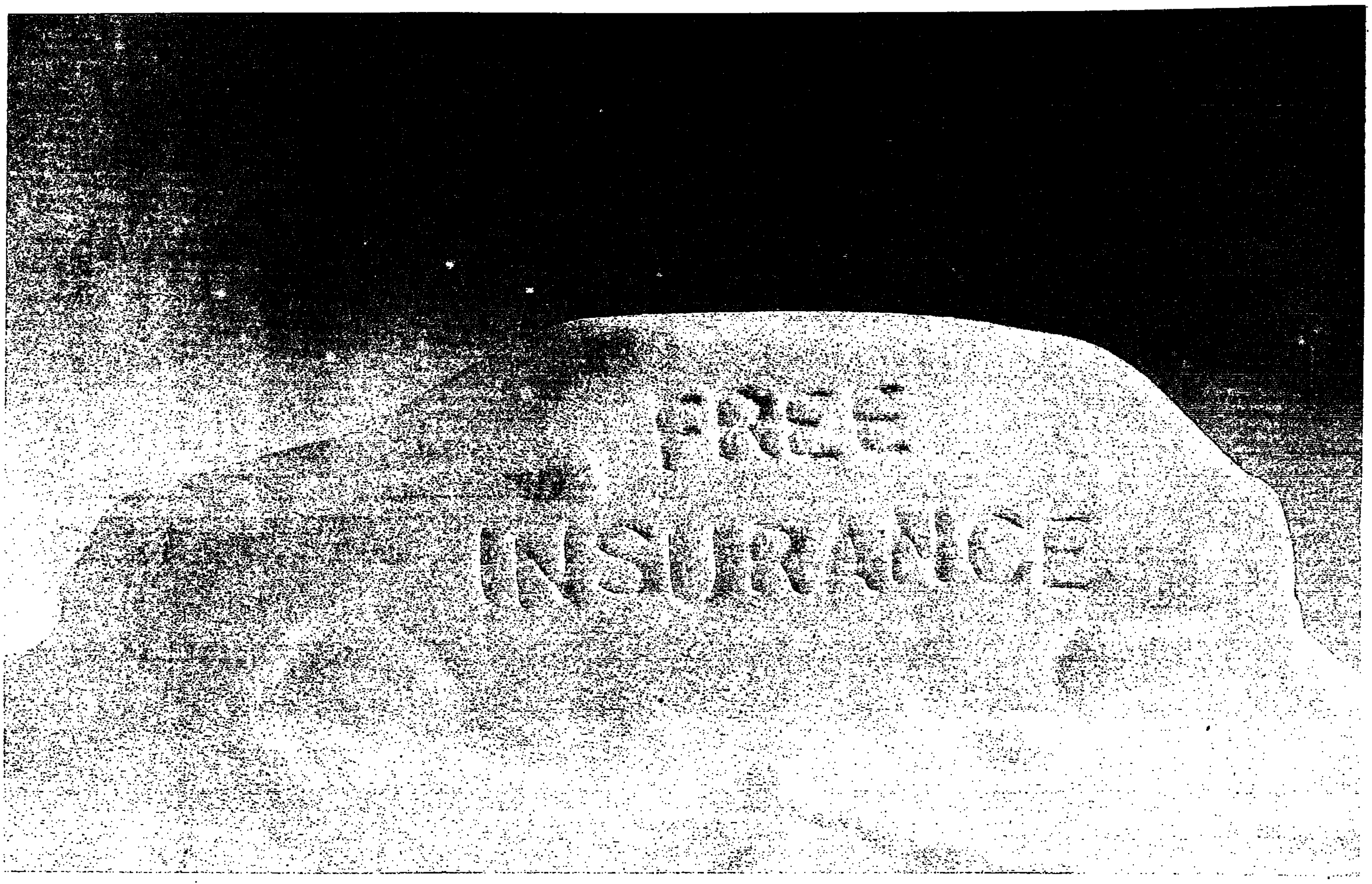

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Howard seeks to abolish ancient principle

Attack on jury nobbling to clear way for retrials

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

THE ancient legal principle that a person cannot be tried twice for the same offence is to be ended in cases where juries and witnesses have been subverted by criminals, the Government said yesterday.

A High Court judge will be able to order a retrial of someone who has walked free from court if the acquittal has been tainted by a later conviction for interfering with witnesses or juries.

The fundamental change to English common law was unveiled by Michael Howard as part of a 49-clause Bill to make it more difficult for defendants to "ambush" the prosecution by introducing plausible but false defences.

The Bill will also give judges the power to ban the reporting of false or irrelevant allegations made by barristers during speeches of mitigation after a defendant has been found guilty. Mr Howard has brought forward the measure in an attempt to stop the blackening of people's characters, particularly of women in rape cases.

The Home Secretary defended the decision to allow retrials in cases where an acquittal has been won on the basis of nobbling a juror or witnesses. "It is an important change and one absolutely necessary in the interests of justice. Otherwise someone continues to go scot-free because they have managed to interfere with a juror or witness." There will be no time limit for ordering a retrial.

Howard: trying to end defence ambushes

He told a press conference at the Home Office that the move to allow restrictions on the reporting of speeches of mitigation was intended to prevent unfounded allegations from damaging the reputations of victims and witnesses. Mr Howard said that the Criminal Procedure and Investigation Bill might result in more guilty pleas, because there would be "less scope for concocting artificial defences which have no relationship to the truth".

Under the proposals published yesterday a three-stage statutory process is to be introduced that will limit the amount of unused material the prosecution is obliged to disclose to the dfence.

For the first time the defence would be obliged to provide the prosecution with a general outline of its case before the trial. The prosecution would first disclose unused material which might undermine its case to the defence; the defence would then disclose the outline of its case, matters on which it took issue with the prosecution and its reasons; then the prosecution would disclose any additional unused material which might assist that defence.

It will be possible for the prosecution to draw an inference from a failure of the defence to comply with its duties, but that could not be the sole basis on which a guilty verdict could be based.

But Mr Howard has dropped some aspects of the disclosure reform proposed in a consultation paper last May. The defence will no longer be required to provide the names and addresses of its witnesses other than those of alibi witnesses.

In addition, a schedule of all evidential material, except for sensitive items such as informants' names, will have to be made available to defence lawyers after they have outlined their case. In an attempt to stop time-consuming "fishing trips" by solicitiors and barristers, they will be able to request only items from the list that are relevant to their defence.

Mr Howard said that at the moment defence lawyers could crawl over all material gathered by the police to identify a weakness in the prosecution case and to seek to exploit it even if it had no relationship to the truth.

Other measures in the Bill include preparatory hearings to focus on contested issues in long and complex cases and allowing juveniles held on remand to be produced at a court less often before their trials.

The Police Federation, representing rank-and-file police officers, said the disclosure reforms would address the problem of the Crown Prosecution Service having to abandon cases rather than risk revealing the identities of police informants. The reforms would end the farce of defence "fishing expeditions".

CHRIS LOUFTE

Danielle Anstee: she scratched a teacher and pulled her hair, the school says

The girl aged five expelled by school

A GIRL aged five has been expelled from school after claims that she pulled a teacher's hair and scratched her. Danielle Anstee was also alleged to have scratched a classmate at Royal Oak Primary, in Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester.

Her mother, Alison Vaughan, described the decision as outrageous yesterday and said her daughter had been victimised. Danielle was just four when she started at the school and within a fortnight had been restricted to half-day attendance after the hair-pulling incident.

Mrs Vaughan said the school had been heavy-handed and that Danielle had problems settling in. "I kept getting letters saying she was misbehaving, but not once did the head teacher speak to me face-to-face."

The school said that the head teacher, Alma Moore, was not available for comment. A spokeswoman for Manchester City Council said Danielle's parents would be invited to discuss her case at a governors' meeting. If the expulsion was upheld they would have the right of appeal.

"If it is decided Danielle should go to another school, a new one would be found immediately for her," said the spokeswoman. The school was sending work to the girl's home to help her.

Churches reject 'divisive' plans to hasten opting out

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

ANGLICAN and Roman Catholic bishops yesterday rejected government plans to encourage more church schools to opt out of local authority control.

The education boards of both Churches condemned John Major's proposals either to withdraw parents' right to vote on the matter or simply to declare all voluntary-aided schools grant-maintained.

The "fast-track" measures for church schools are the latest steps towards the Prime Minister's aim that all schools should eventually become grant-maintained. Proposals range from forcing local authorities to hand church schools virtually their whole budget, instead of the average of 85 per cent, to setting a time at which all voluntary-aided schools will automatically become grant-maintained, unless they "opt in".

Fewer than 350 of the 4,032 voluntary-aided schools have chosen to opt out since the policy was introduced. One idea facing strong objections from parents and local authority groups is that the governing body assume total power over the opt-out decision. It is also suggested that local authority members could be removed from governing bodies.

The Board of Education of the General Synod of the Church of England said yesterday it "disagreed with the basic thrust" of the Government's proposals and "strongly opposed" removing the right to ballot on grant-maintained status only from parents of those at aided schools.

The Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference said depriving parents of the right to ballot was "discriminatory and divisive". It said the proposals "threaten to isolate the churches from their partners in education".

The Education and Employment Department said yesterday: "We are seeking a wide range of views. Nothing is ruled in or out."

In another blow yesterday to the Government's education legislation programme, the National Union of Students threatened to boycott any banks joining a privatised student loan scheme.

Young readers defy modern stereotype

NEARLY half of all 11 and 12-year-olds read for pleasure every day, despite the popular belief that theirs is a generation of illiterate screen addicts (David Charter writes).

Of top-year primary school children, 45.6 per cent read for fun; and 37.7 per cent of first-years at secondary school do so. The findings, from the National Foundation for Educational Research, are set to be endorsed by research under way at Nottingham University, which will show that children read more now than they did 25 years ago. Christine Hall, one of the Nottingham researchers, said: "The average number of books read is slightly down on 25 years ago but matched against that is the fact that reading of magazines and periodicals is higher."

Sue Harris, who helped to write the foundation's report, said: "I think this is wonderful. People tend to get hooked on the fact that children are spending large amounts of time playing video games or watching television. In this age of technology it is very encouraging that children are reading for fun every day."

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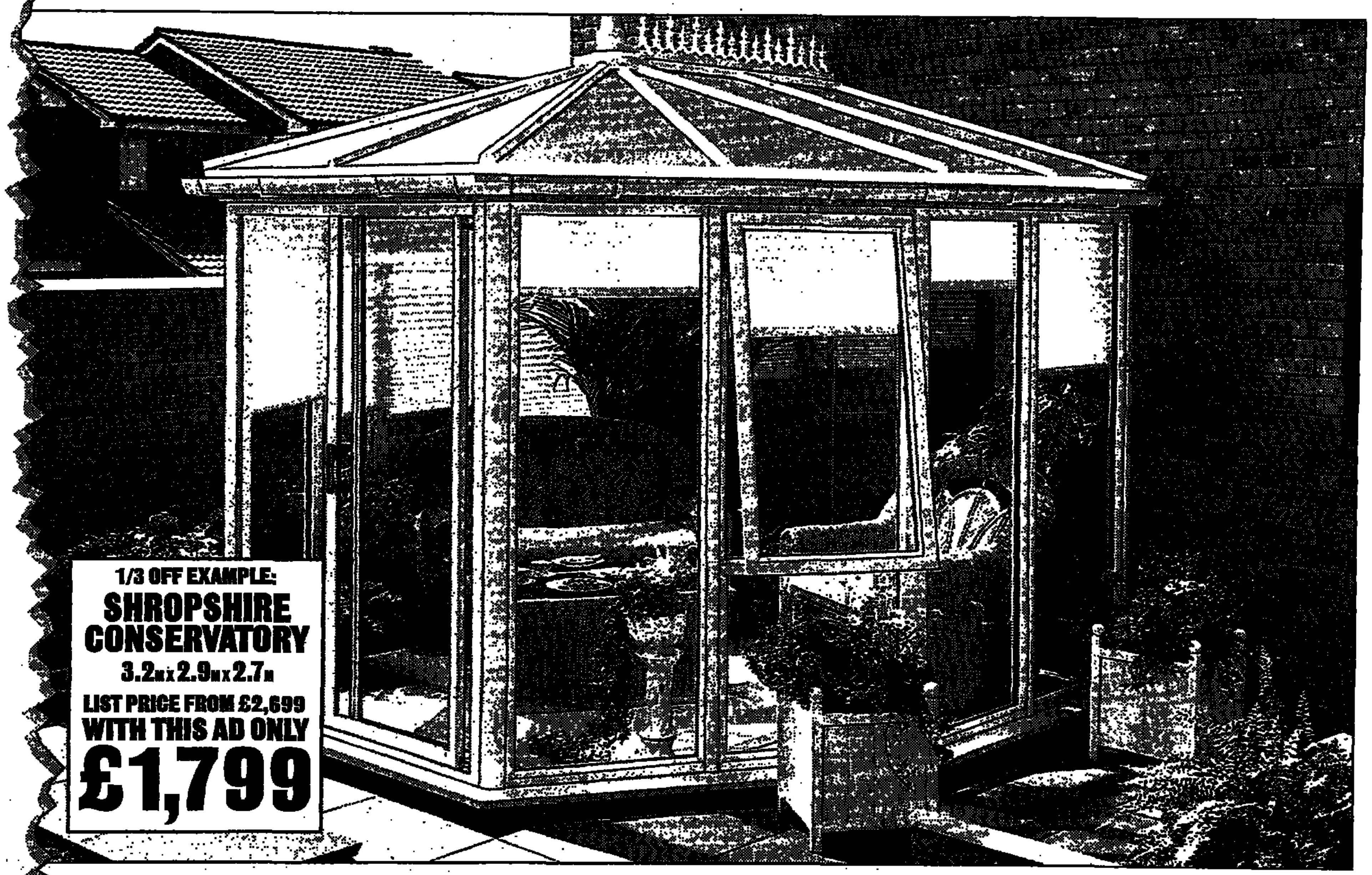

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Satellite may find Earth's origins and guard future

Science mission blasts into past

By Nick Nuttall and Nigel Hawkes

THE first of three big European science missions blasted off from French Guiana yesterday. The Infra-red Space Observatory will search the universe for clues to the birth of planets and suns, and is so sensitive to heat that it must be kept cooled almost to absolute zero.

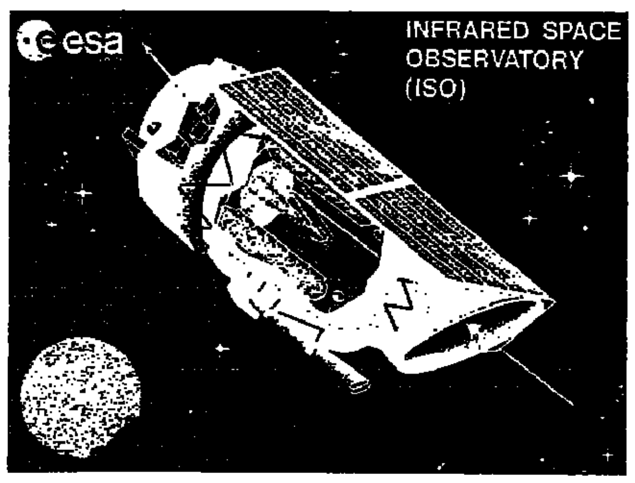
The instruments that can see cool clouds of dust and gas may also become a blueprint for an early-warning system against earth-bound comets.

British researchers are playing a leading role in the space programme, which continues next week with the launch of the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory from Cape Canaveral, Florida. It will study the causes of charged particles from the Sun, known as the solar wind, that are believed to affect the Earth's weather and communications systems. Next April, a formation of four spacecraft will take off to examine how the solar wind affects the Earth's magnetic field.

The ISO satellite, launched yesterday by Ariane 4 rocket, is as big as a 50-seat coach and weighs 2.5 tonnes. It has been over a decade in the planning and has cost £520 million, of which Britain contributed £80 million. Among its missions is one to observe Titan, the Saturn moon that is considered to be like a primitive Earth: it is cloaked in a hazy mist which may contain the same cocktail of chemicals that gave rise to life here.

Unlike the Hubble space telescope, ISO will observe the universe in the infra-red region of the spectrum, which is impossible from Earth because this radiation is absorbed by the atmosphere. The spacecraft must be cooled almost to absolute zero, or minus 270C, so heat radiation from the satellite does not upset the instruments. They are surrounded by a tank containing more than 2,000 litres of liquid helium, which will gradually boil away.

ISO is so sensitive to heat that it would be damaged if it were to be pointed at the Sun, Earth, Moon, or Jupiter. It will never be allowed to look back. Professor Peter Clegg of Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, says that ISO should produce better, clearer pictures over a greater wavelength range than the previous infra-red satellite, IRAS, launched in 1983.



Searching for the invisible: a cutaway diagram of the £520 million European infra-red observatory

Because it detects heat, not light, it will be able to see the vast clouds of dust and gas from which stars are born. It may also find brown dwarfs, stars too small and cool to burn as bright as the Sun, which may constitute a large part of the "missing matter" in the universe.

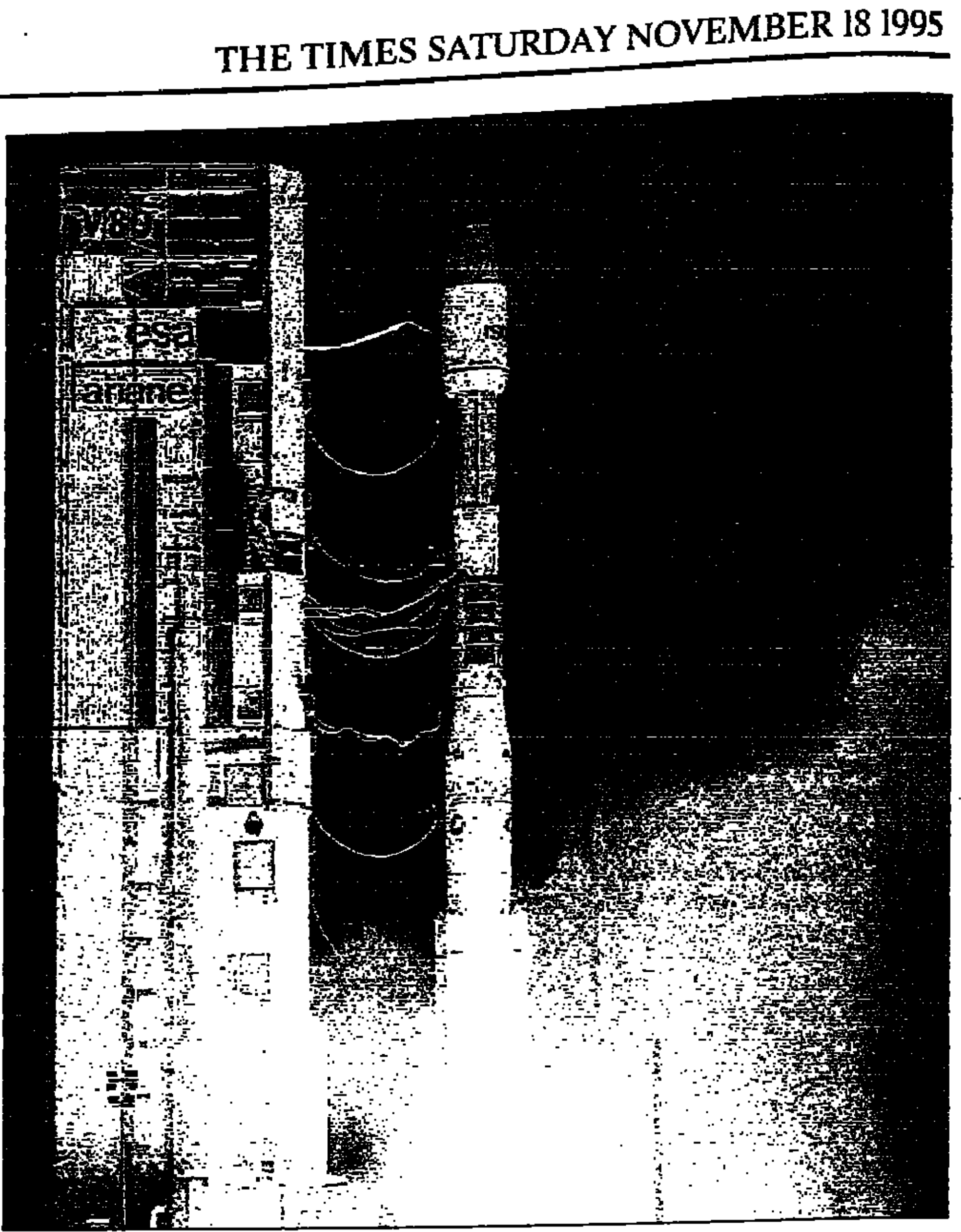
Professor Roger Bonnet of the European Space Agency believes ISO might become a blueprint for a network of similar satellites that could act as an early-warning system for earth-bound comets, rather like spy satellites that spot the exhausts of inter-continental ballistic missiles.

The programme has to be tightly planned to make best use of ISO's short life. All the observations to be made in the first three months are already programmed, but there will still be a chance to point the satellite towards new comets or super novi that appear while it is operational.

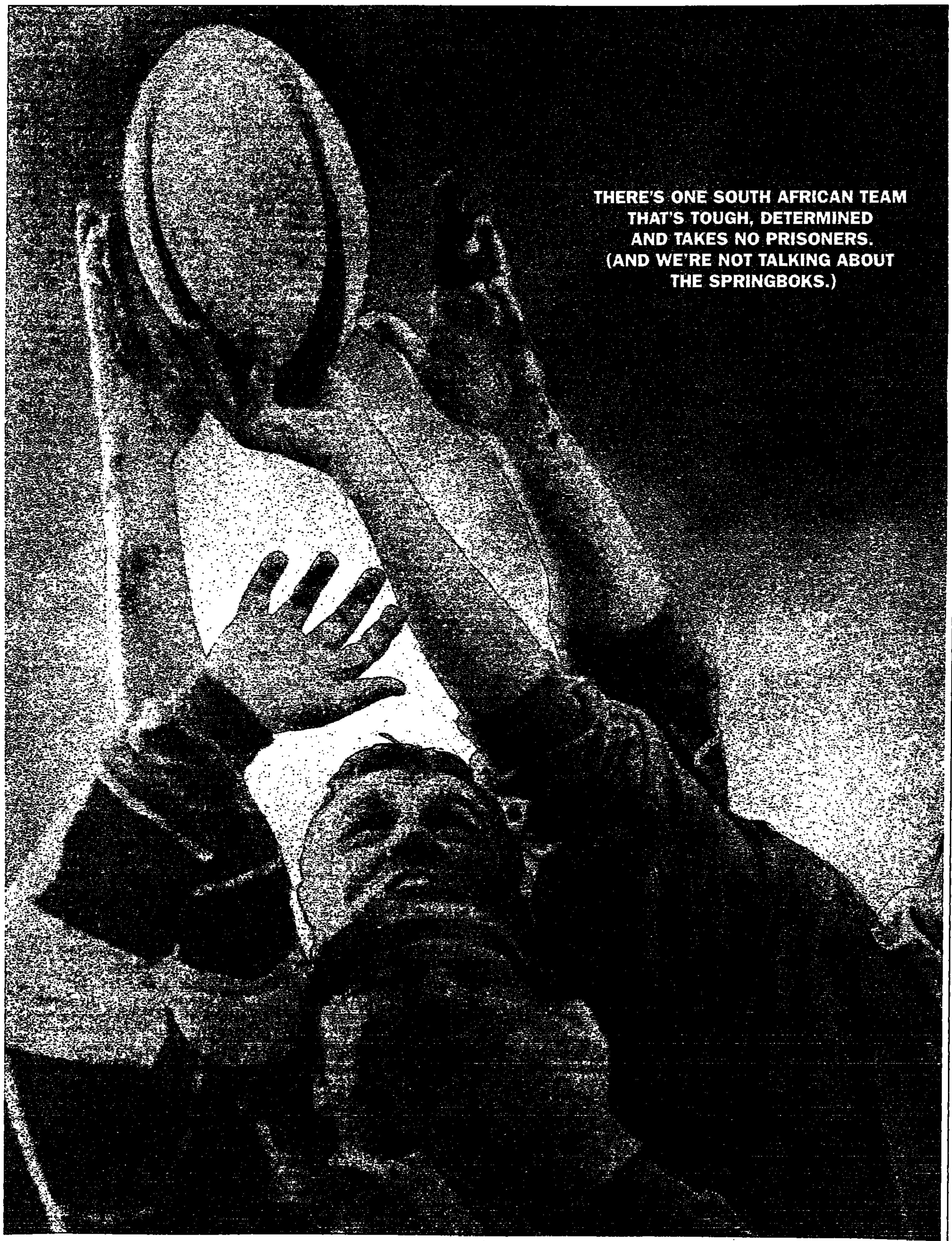
On the next two missions, it is hoped that observations from Soho — a joint ESA and Nasa mission — can be matched with measurements from the Cluster satellites to routinely forecast the solar wind, its size and the likely impact on the Earth.

The importance of the solar wind and the magnetic storms it can trigger was highlighted in the summer of 1991. Computer centres including BT's at Oswestry, the National Grid's in southeast London and IBM's in Winchester were put on standby after big flares were seen on the face of the Sun. The storms can cause navigation instruments to err by up to 10 kilometres.

☐ Amateur astronomers will be braving the cold tonight for a shower of shooting stars that could appear at the rate of one per minute. The Leonid meteor shower is expected after midnight for the second consecutive night.



Take-off yesterday for the Ariane rocket, which put the ISO satellite into space



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Peanut oil almost kills girl on outing

By A Staff Reporter

A GIRL walking hand-in-hand with her father on a pre-Christmas outing to London nearly died from a severe reaction to peanut oil left on his fingers after they fed the birds in St James's Park.

Elizabeth Sidney, five, turned blue and developed blisters on her hands and face. Her father Allen, from Sunderland, who did not know she was allergic to peanuts, ran towards Piccadilly Circus to find help with the girl in his arms.

A pharmacist in Boots recognised the symptoms of anaphylaxis, and a motorcycle paramedic treated Elizabeth before she was taken to hospital. Her sisters Holly, seven, and Katrina, nine, were not affected.

Elizabeth's mother, Loraine, said: "By the time the paramedic arrived she looked like the Elephant Man. We thought you had to eat peanuts to have a reaction like this. We'd wiped our hands, but she'd picked up more oil from Allen.

"If she'd eaten a nut in the park, she could have been dead in five minutes. The only place where I now feel she'll be safe is at home."

Chauffeur jailed for smuggling Ecstasy

By Stewart Tendler

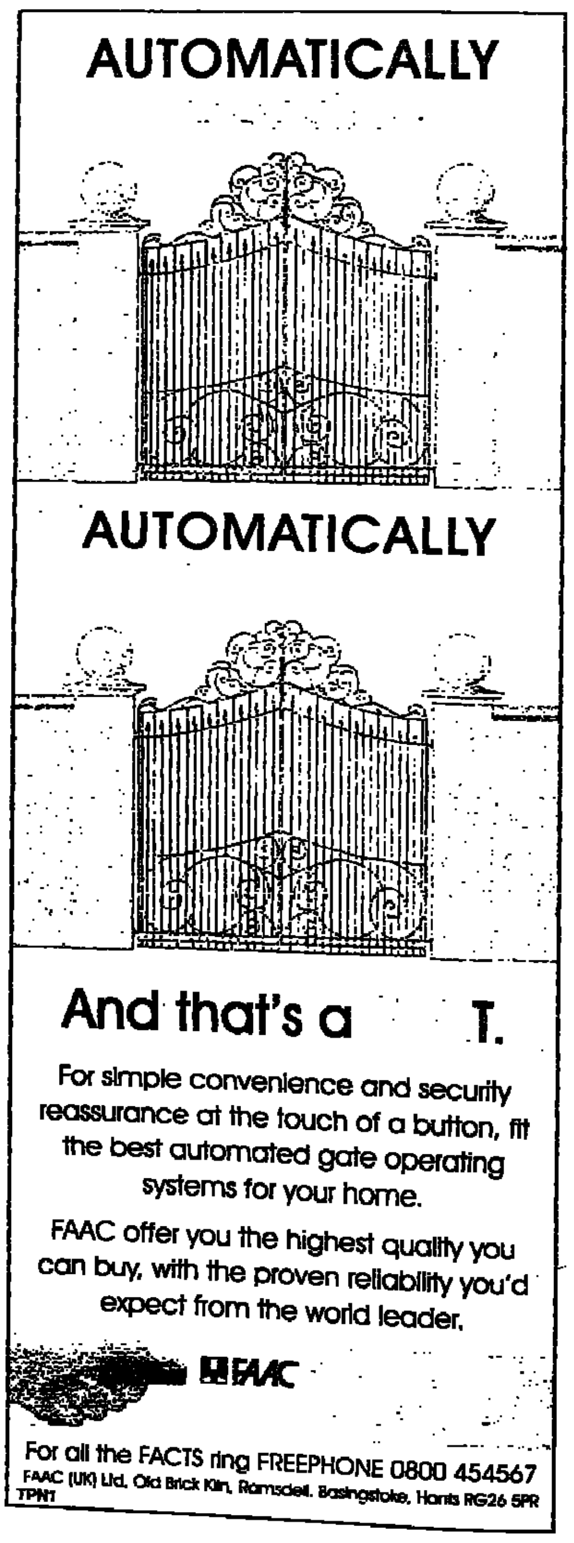
A CHAUFFEUR was jailed for nine years yesterday for trying to smuggle £300,000 of Ecstasy through the Channel Tunnel.

Customs officers suspect that Milton Jerrard, 55, a volunteer youth worker, may have carried out a number of smuggling trips. The drugs were given to him in Holland, hidden in a spare tyre. He received £4,000 per journey.

He was arrested at the French end of the tunnel in June. The tablets found in his car each contained the imprint of a rabbit and were known as "bunnies". They would have sold for £15 each.

Jerrard, from Chigwell, Essex, admitted smuggling 25,000 tablets, but told Maidstone Crown Court that he did not know the tyre contained Ecstasy. "I have hated drugs always. I am totally sick about my involvement."

☐ Michael Fikkert, 31, from The Netherlands, was jailed for 11 years by Knightsbridge Crown Court for smuggling 15,000 Ecstasy tablets bearing the same apple logo as on the tablet that killed Leah Betts, 18. The judge recommended that Fikkert be deported once his sentence was completed.



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Vatican bans writings of popular mystic

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Vatican has banned the writings of a popular female mystic and ordered Roman Catholic bishops to intervene so that "no opportunity may be provided in their dioceses for the dissemination of her ideas".

The rare and strongly worded notification from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, formerly the Inquisition, says that the "heavenly messages" of Vassula Ryden are merely the result of private meditations and the faithful should not believe them. One senior Catholic said yesterday: "I can't remember every seeing a warning like this before."

Mrs Ryden, a Greek Orthodox who lives in Switzerland, is speaking in London today. She is one of a large number of writers claiming divine guidance for apocalyptic and millennarian predictions. As the millennium approaches, such "prophets" are expected to proliferate in all religions.

What is unusual about Mrs Ryden, a tennis player with two teenage sons, is the size of her following and her credibility with the laity and many clergy throughout the Church. One Catholic insider said: "She has been everywhere, met the Pope, cardinals, bishops. She has a huge following worldwide."

Mrs Ryden, who is married to a Lutheran, has sold about 120,000 books in the past four years. She claims to receive visions directly from Christ and, in one recent article, described an image of the scourging on the Cross: "Having scourged me, they spat on me and gave several hard blows on my head, leaving me dizzy. They kicked me in my stomach, leaving me breathless and falling to the ground, moaning with pain."

The Vatican notification concedes there are "positive aspects" to her writings but says they contain "several doctrinal errors". Its objections concern her "ambiguous" language in speaking of the persons of the Trinity, her predictions of an imminent period when the anti-Christ will prevail in the Church and her prophecy of a final, glorious intervention by God.

Dr Michael O'Carroll, an eminent Catholic theologian from Blackrock College, Dublin, who travels with Mrs Ryden, accused the Vatican of defamation. He said: "Legal advice is being sought for this means damage to an innocent person and her family."

Mrs Ryden will be speaking at the Friends Meeting House opposite Euston Station, London, this afternoon.

Ryden: claims visions come from Christ

At Your Service, Weekend, page 3

Theologian attacks Church's reforms

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

PROPOSALS to restructure the Church of England were condemned yesterday by a leading theologian as "potentially dangerous".

Richard Roberts, Professor of Religious Studies at Lancaster University, said that the Turnbull report, proposing a Cabinet-style national council for the Church, was "in the business of mind alteration". At a London conference on harmful religion, he said the proposals would mean a "top-down Church" and catered for a narrow group who were seeking "the alteration of mind and spirituality" of their employees.

The report was produced by a commission chaired by the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev Michael Turnbull. The council, which would be chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury and include unelected nominees, is intended to give focus to leadership and policy-making. While doubts have been privately aired by some church leaders, Professor Roberts is the first to go public with such an indictment. His criticisms will add weight to moves from traditionalists to delay its enactment.

Professor Roberts said the Church was behaving like a product-led business organisation. The product was the Gospel, being delivered to a "customer" in the pew. He said the proposals were an attempt to control the spirituality of the clergy and laity.

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GILL ALLEN

The Ven Christopher Herbert, formerly Archdeacon of Dorking, left, after being consecrated Bishop of St Albans at Southwark Cathedral in London. The Ven Timothy Stevens, formerly Archdeacon of West Ham, was consecrated Bishop of Dunwich

Being true to yourself is also Christ's way

Credo

Fraser Watts

Integrity is a distinctively modern moral preoccupation. Even those who are deaf to all other moral claims seem instinctively to feel that they should at least be "true to themselves". Integrity is at the heart of all modern talk about how to live.

In the world of personal growth, Jung writes about the "persona" or mask that people wear, hiding from others, and even from themselves, the darker "shadow" side of their personality; integrity involves integrating the shadow and the persona.

Yet the ideal of being "true to yourself" can be pushed too far. It is too egotistical a virtue to be, on its own, an adequate moral guide. At very least, it needs to be balanced by trying to help other people to be themselves too. Also, "being yourself" can be too static an ideal to be wholly satisfactory.

For Christians the issue will be approached in the context of their relationship with Christ. Here there are two rather different strands of thought about the transformation of personality, which is at the heart of the Christian life.

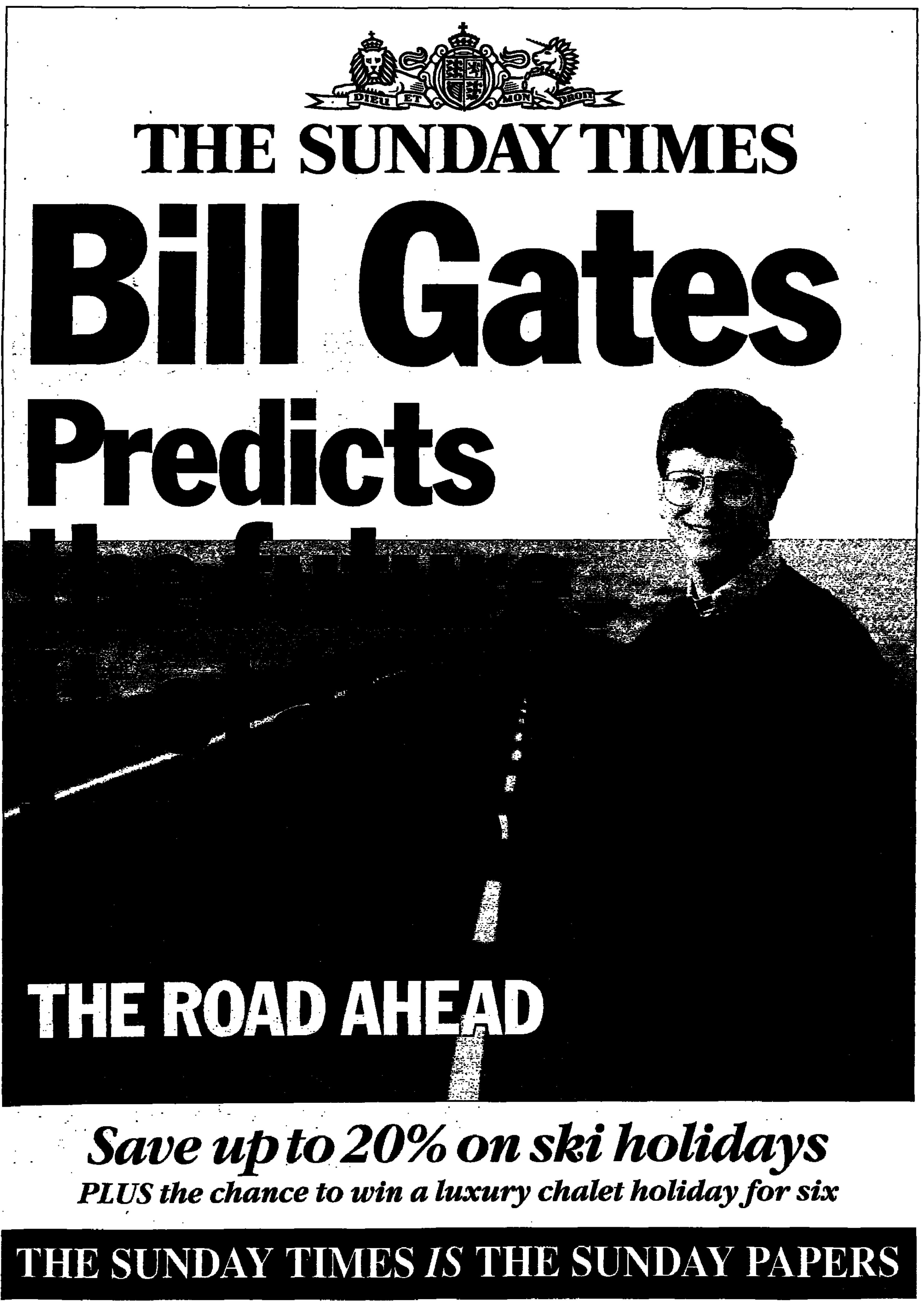
Sometimes the emphasis is placed on the radicalness of the transformation, on the "new nature" that is acquired. There is truth in that, but it becomes misleading if taken to the point of suggesting that, once people are Christians, they are no longer themselves. That is a perversion of the Gospel that undermines integrity rather than secures it.

The other line of thought, and an important corrective, emphasises that Christians are called to become more truly themselves, redeeming and integrating the various strands of their personality. That results in them becoming more "all of a piece", thoughts, feelings, words and actions cohering together. Shrinking from the transformation involved in such an integration too often results in being just artificially Christian on the surface.

The Jesus of the Gospels stands as a model of someone whose words and actions hang together and ring true. However, it is to misuse him to seek simply to imitate him. Rather, in the context of their relationship with him, Christians can seek to discover their own integrity. He challenges us each to discover and do "the Father's will".

At the heart of Jesus's integrity, especially as he appears in John's gospel, is his commitment to the mission that his Father has given him. For the Christian, integrity is achieved as each person discovers his or her vocation and lives it out. Far from trapping us, being true to ourselves in that sense can be a liberation; it also calls for a sense of adventure as we follow our vocation where integrity dictates.

Fraser Watts is Starbridge Lecturer at Cambridge University, Fellow of Queens' College and Chaplain of St Edward's Church.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Infertility pioneer and adviser to Ashdown bolster working strength in Lords

New list of peers widens gap between the parties

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ALICE THOMSON

New working peers, from top left: Sir Gordon Borrie, Lady Wilcox, John Sewel, Helene Hayman, Robert Winston. Below: Tom McNally, Sir Peter Bowness, Sir Basil Feldman, Sir Philip Harris and Canon Peter Pilkington

ROBERT WINSTON, the pioneer in infertility treatment, and Tom McNally, the former Labour MP who is now a special adviser to Paddy Ashdown, are among 11 new life peers announced yesterday to help the main parties to increase their working strength in the Lords.

Professor Winston, a vociferous critic of the Government's health reforms, is one of four new "working peers" nominated by Tony Blair, and Mr McNally one of two proposed by Mr Ashdown. There are five new Conservative peers, including Sir Basil Feldman, chairman of the National Union of the Conservative Party, its voluntary wing, since 1991.

William Wallace: former adviser to Sir David Steel

But there was mystery at Westminster last night over the identity of another potential Conservative candidate who may have been taken off the list during vetting by the Honours Scrutiny Committee, which considers the suitability of candidates. The committee members are Lord Pym, former Tory Foreign Secretary, Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, former Labour leader in the Lords, and Lord Thomson of Monifieth, Liberal Democrat spokesman on broadcasting and former Labour Cabinet minister.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have been under the impression since July, when they submitted their names, that the Tories would have six new peers. But the announcement of the list has been delayed, to the chagrin of the opposition parties who have been anxious to bring in their nominees to strengthen their front benches.

Leadership sources in both parties voiced surprise that only 11 names had been announced. Downing Street sources insisted that the intention had been to name 11 peers but they declined to confirm that the list announced had been the same as that which went to the scrutiny committee. Conservative sources also maintained that the intention had always been to name five Tory peers.

Lord Richard, leader of the Labour peers, said he had been expecting 12 new peers to be announced in August but there had obviously been "a hitch". The opposition parties were first told the announcement had to be delayed because of the Tory leadership challenge. When they asked if the new Peers could be announced in October they were repeatedly told "No 10 was not ready".

All their nominations had been notified of their new titles, had been accepted by the Honours scrutiny committee, had chosen their new names and had been sworn to secrecy until the end of August.

The Conservative peers are Lady Wilcox, chairman of the National Consumer Council since 1990. Sir Peter Bowness, leader of the Tories on Croydon Council since 1976. Sir Philip Harris, chairman of Carpetright, who has been a substantial donor to the Tory party as well as leading charities, Canon Peter Pilkington, chairman of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission and former honorary canon of Canterbury Cathedral, and Sir Basil.

The Labour peers are Helene Hayman, chairman of the Whittington NHS Trust in north London since 1992 and MP for Welwyn and Hatfield between 1974-79. Sir Gordon Borrie, a former Director General of Fair Trading who was chairman of the Commission on Social Justice set up by John Smith, John Sewel, vice principal at Aberdeen University, and Professor Winston. The other Liberal Democrat is William Wallace, reader in international relations at the LSE and former close adviser to Sir David Steel when he was Liberal leader.

Labour complained last night that John Major had not allowed them to nominate more peers. Lord Richard said it was intolerable that the Prime Minister had done nothing to redress the political balance of peers in the Lords.

"The fact that we have four new Labour peers doesn't do much to redress the balance because we have lost 12 peers through death this year so we are eight down from where we started," he said.

Lord Richard pointed out that his party had only 112 peers taking the Labour whip and almost all of them were working peers who were not replaced on death. The Tories have 425 peers taking the whip and the majority are hereditary peers who have heirs.

"The big difference is they revive themselves and we do not. It is deeply unfair and biased and neither Margaret Thatcher nor John Major have helped the problem.

"In the last 15 years the Tories are up 33 peers while we are down 28 peers," he said.

Scottish debate thrown open by new stance

BY announcing plans for wide-ranging reforms in the way Scotland is governed, John Major has radically altered the Tory party's stance on constitutional change. From a position of intransigence in which defending the existing Union was seen as the only response to talk of devolution or independence, the Prime Minister has thrown the debate wide open. And he has chosen St Andrew's day, November 30, to reveal the details.

This is not just symbolic. It is the date selected by the Scottish Constitutional Convention to announce their own plans for home rule and the establishment of a parliament in Edinburgh.

At a stroke Mr Major has cut through the somewhat one-sided deliberations that have been conducted so far. By conceding that the Convention's announcement was "an important event", and acknowledging that people in Scotland feel "cut off from parliamentary debate", he has reversed Mrs Thatcher's implacable opposition to reform and left the way open for the Tories to reclaim the middle ground in Scotland.

Behind the move lies the intriguing figure of the Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Forsyth. A Thatcherite by conviction, his conversion to the cause of reform could hardly be more remarkable. His appointment as Scottish Secretary earlier this year was greeted with horror by those who remembered his previous incarnation as a rightwing Scottish Office minister dedicated to root and branch changes in education, health and social services.

But the new Michael Forsyth has been a very different animal. He has set out to woo vested interests in Scotland, embarking on a mammoth programme of consultation. By listening to organisations like local authorities, trade unions and teachers he has won cautious approval for a more moderate approach to political change. And by announcing radical plans, such as offering crofters Scottish Office land, he has gained support in some unexpected quarters.

At the same time he has been relentless in attacking Labour and Liberal Democrat plans for a Scottish parliament, homing in on the proposed "tartan tax" which, he claims would cost Scots an extra £300 a year. His conversion to the idea of giving Scots a greater say in the way they are governed stems from his belief in decentralisation. He has already talked of the need to give local councils more powers to run their own budgets, on the grounds that it could instil a greater degree of fiscal responsibility. This is a logical extension.

By suggesting ways in which Scottish MPs could debate and vote on legislative matter outside Westminster he is taking up a baton left abandoned by the Tories for more than 20 years. It was in 1969 that Edward Heath asked the late Lord Home to come up with plans for a Scottish Assembly. Mr Forsyth's ideas will probably not go as far as this. But what the Prime Minister indicated yesterday was that he would like to find a way of giving Scottish MPs the right to vote on Scottish matters before they are transferred back to Westminster.

COMMENTARY

Whether this will be enough to satisfy Scottish opinion is another matter. George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, dismissed it as a "panicky but well-packaged PR stunt", while the SNP leader Alex Salmond thought the proposals would do little to relieve the "democratic deficit" in Scotland. Nevertheless it is an intervention that has dramatically changed the political debate. Once again Mr Forsyth has shown he can produce an unexpected rabbit from an apparently empty hat.

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Fallon fails to gain selection in new seat

MICHAEL FALLON, the Thatcherite former junior Education Minister who lost his seat at the last election, has failed again to be selected for a new constituency.

Members of Runnymede and Weybridge Conservative Association have rejected Mr Fallon's application to be their candidate for the ultra-safe seat. They chose instead Philip Hammond, 39, a former chairman of East Lewisham Conservative Association. Mr Fallon, who was MP for Darlington for almost ten years, has applied unsuccessfully for several other constituencies, including Kensington and Chelsea.

Runnymede and Weybridge, a new Surrey seat created by the Boundary Commission, is one of the safest Tory seats in the country, with an expected majority of 22,000 over the Liberal Democrats.

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Italian Right wins decree to deport criminal migrants

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Italian Government has bowed to pressure from the xenophobic Northern League by issuing a decree allowing public prosecutors to expel illegal immigrants for drug peddling and prostitution, officials said yesterday.

The Cabinet of Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister, issued the decree on Thursday night, but in an unusually authoritarian move, it decided not to make the text public until President Scalfaro had signed it, fearing that the head of state might impose some last-minute changes.

The Italian media gave wide coverage to the proposed British curbs on illegal immigration mentioned in the Queen's Speech, which evidently helped the ponderous Signor Dini to push his measures through a divided Cabinet after weeks of prevarication.

The decree also includes measures that will make it cheaper for employers to bring immigrant employees within the social security system by obviating the need for retrospective payment of contributions — an effective amnesty for illegal immigrants who have found stable jobs.

Bari: Italian police said yesterday that they believed Sacra Corona Unità (Holy United Crown), a local equivalent of the Mafia, had planned last year to use a rocket-propelled grenade to assassinate Giuseppe Tatarella, then Italy's Deputy Prime Minister. A senior police officer in the southeastern port of Bari said the man meant to carry out the attack had become a witness for the prosecution. ***(Reuter)***

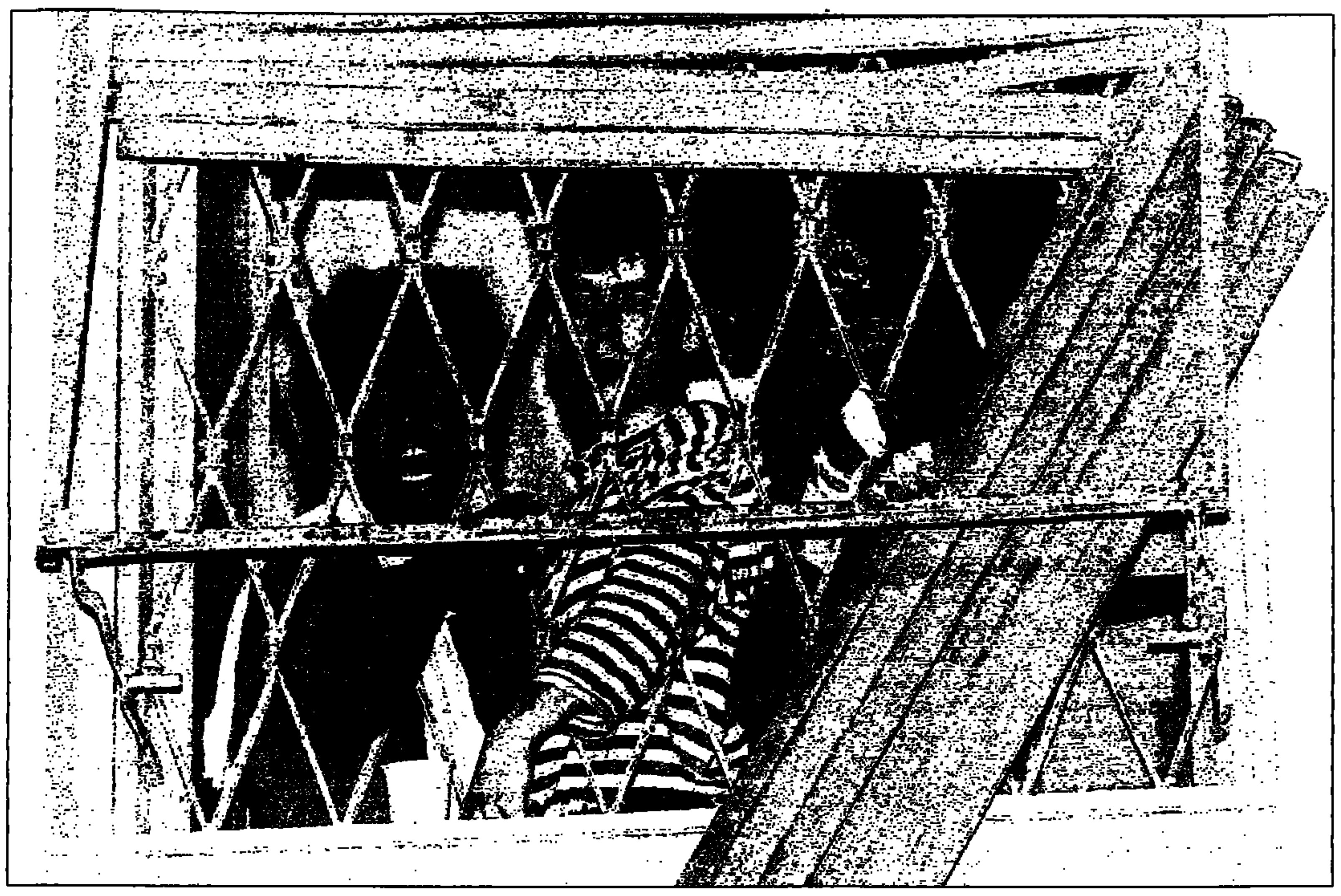
Italy has traditionally been a country of net emigration, but its prosperity in recent years and slack border controls, coupled with many young Italians' increasing distaste for manual work, has made it a favoured destination for workers from the Maghreb, black Africa and Eastern Europe. About 900,000 immigrants were officially registered as working last year, but the total, including seasonal workers in agriculture and tourism, is probably higher.

The decree has to be approved by parliament within 60 days. Umberto Bossi, the Northern League leader, has threatened to sabotage the Government's 1996 budget if the text is not sufficiently tough. Some left-wing parties who support Signor Dini on other issues have accused him of introducing "ethnic cleansing" with the measures.

Under the decree, police will refer the cases of illegal immigrants caught dealing in drugs, soliciting or pimping to magistrates who must decide within 48 hours whether to recommend to a judge that they expel them. "The decree is an error," said Sergio Cofferati, head of the "post-communist" CGIL trade union federation. "It is the fruit of pressure from the League. A racist and provincial culture is re-emerging."

The Northern League has mounted a rabid anti-immigrant campaign in recent weeks. Its MPs called for police to be armed with rubber bullets "with sharpened points" to suppress riots by foreign gangs of criminals.

Public pressure for a crackdown on illegal immigration has been growing in cities because of spiralling crime in multiracial districts. In the past, Italians were tolerant of foreigners, but in cities such as Genoa and Turin whole neighbourhoods have become no-go areas, at least at night, because of the activities of North African drug dealers.



Three rioting inmates of a maximum security prison in Athens call out to reporters for help from the administrative office early yesterday.

Rioting prisoners keep Athens police at bay

Greek riot police, firing teargas and rifles, have seized the office but the rest of the Korydallos jail in west Athens was still under the control of more than 1,000 inmates who seized it on Tuesday. Police yesterday recovered the body of a prisoner, probably a foreigner, who was hanged and then burnt by the rioters. It was the fourth confirmed death of an inmate: the first three dead to be removed from the prison were all Greeks who died from drug overdoses. At the start of the rampage, inmates seized the prison hospital and gave out drugs. On Thursday night, police fired live rounds into the air and scores of rounds of teargas to stop hundreds of prisoners who tried to escape by rushing police lines en masse. The inmates, who are demanding better food and less crowding among other issues, have burnt and wrecked everything in sight. The Justice Ministry yesterday claimed that order had been restored but there was no sign that the riot was yet over. It was the second time the Government said the takeover had ended when it had not.

Calls were growing for the resignation of Ioannis Pottakis, the Justice Minister. The prison, designed for 400 inmates, has more than 1,500. Since 1990, more than 150 inmates have escaped in five jailbreaks. *(Reuter)*

Insults fly in Walesa campaign

BY ROGER BOYES

RUNNING neck and neck, President Walesa of Poland and Aleksander Kwasniewski, his ex-communist rival, yesterday exchanged a last round of insults before heading for the climax of the country's often bitter presidential election.

The ballot, to be held tomorrow, has divided Poles into three camps: those who still cherish their Solidarity roots, those who yearn for the communist era's certainties and those who cannot identify with either.

Many voters are inclined to back Mr Walesa because he is a common man, though the final television duel was won by Mr Kwasniewski: the President fumbled for words and resorted to crude sarcasm about Bolsheviks — yet many ordinary Poles distrust glib television performances.

Paris anger at nuclear test vote

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE yesterday condemned ten European Union partners who voted in favour of a United Nations resolution condemning nuclear testing, accusing some of its allies of rank disloyalty.

Paris vowed to continue its programme of tests in the South Pacific and cancelled next week's summit meeting with Italy, one of the nations to vote in favour of the resolution. Britain and France voted against the UN resolution, while Germany, Spain and Greece abstained. Italy, Belgium, Portugal, The Netherlands, Denmark, Luxembourg, Austria, Sweden, Ireland and Finland backed the call for an immediate end to all nuclear testing.

The vote by the UN disarmament and international security committee was passed by 95 votes to 12, with 45 abstentions. The resolution demanded that the General Assembly call for an immediate end to nuclear testing.

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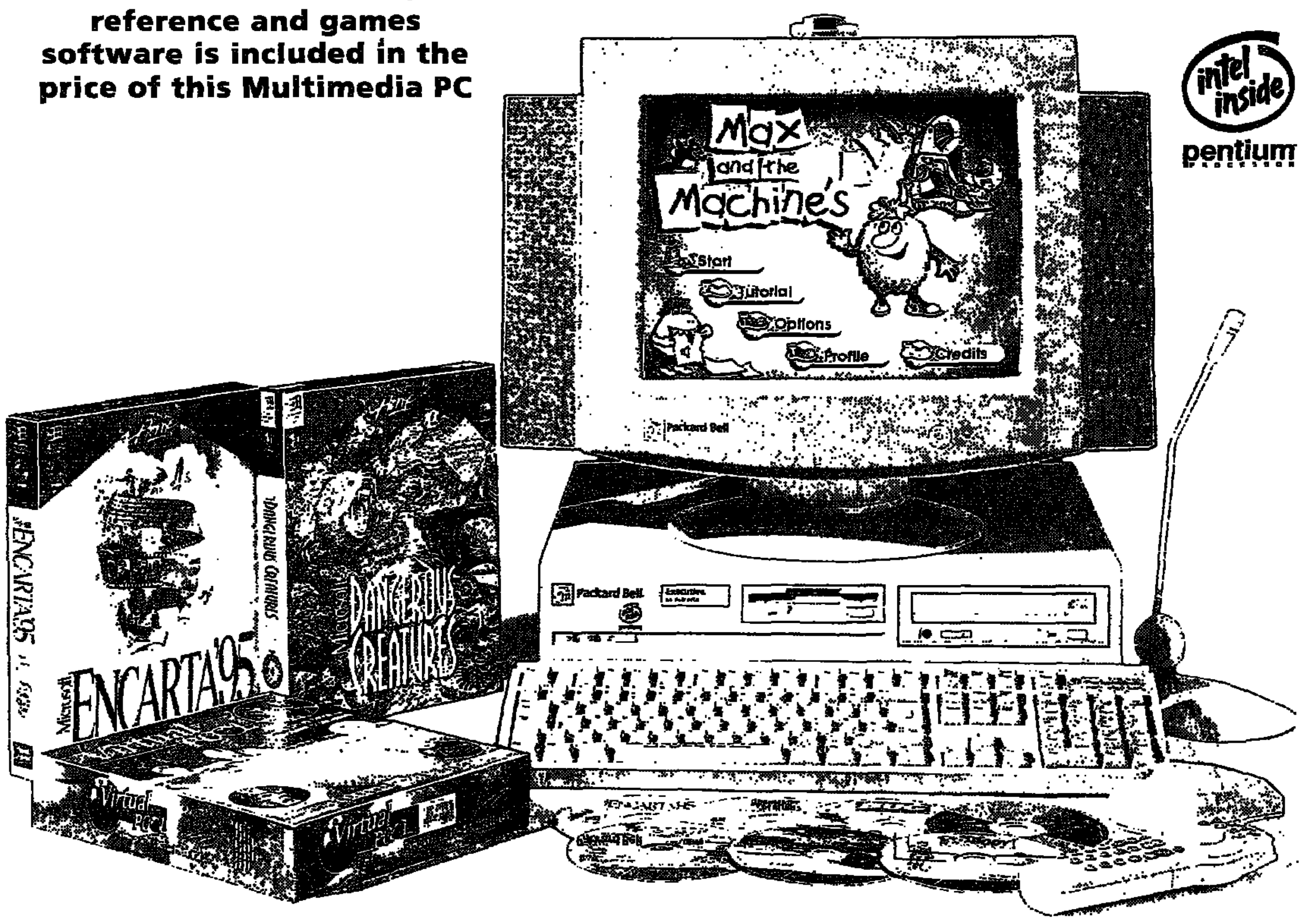

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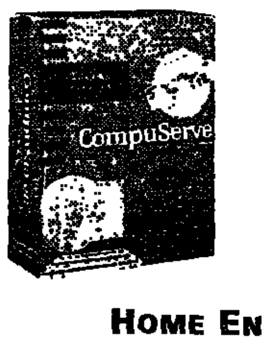

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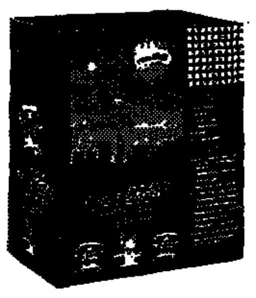

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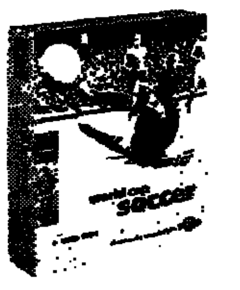

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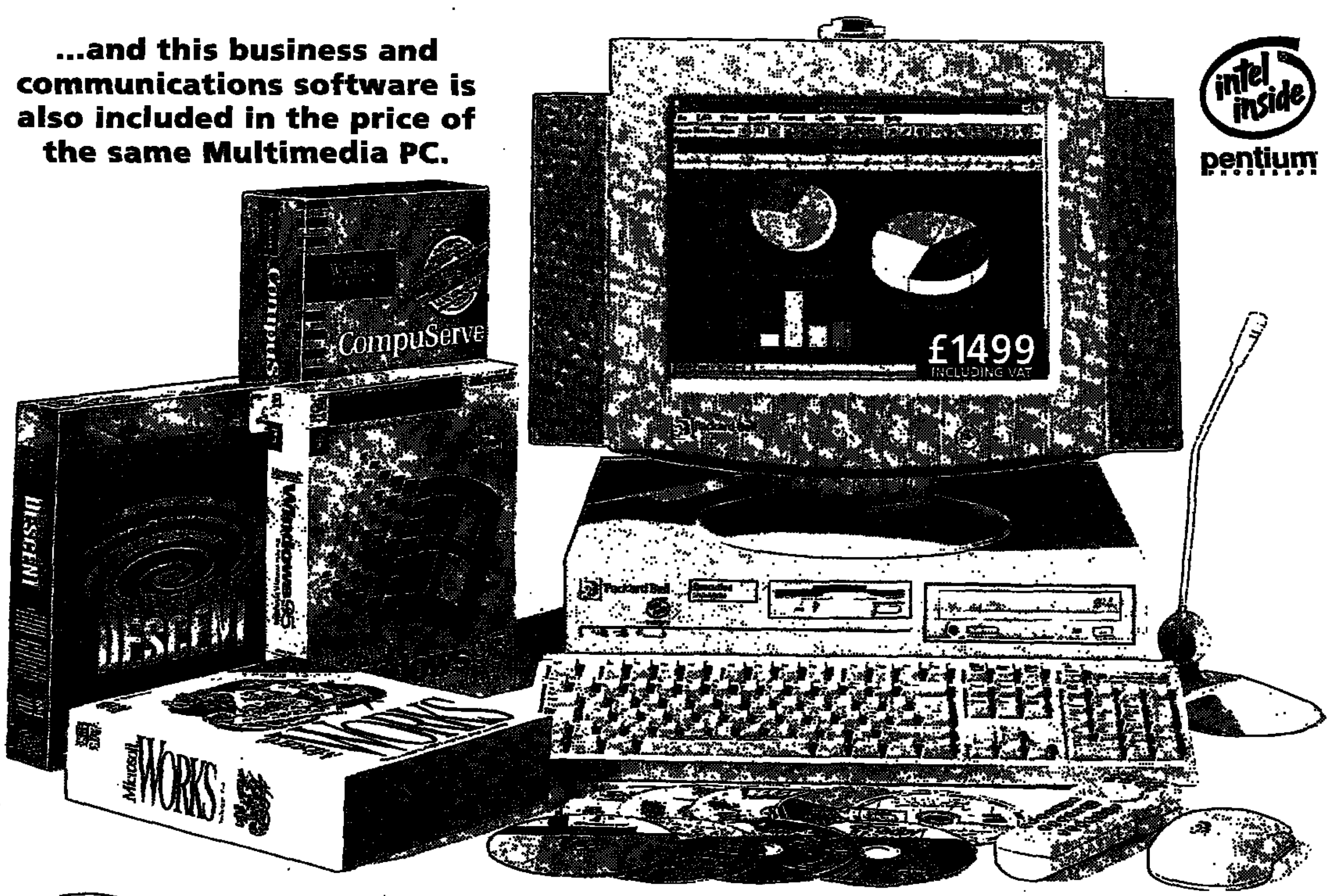

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Hardnosed television journalist puts rulers of Russia on the defensive

Bad news for politicians

MOSCOW FILE

by RICHARD BEESTON

WITH his languid presentation and avuncular style, Yevgeni Kiselyev at first sight hardly seems to live up to his reputation as one of Russia's most hardnosed and influential newsmen. However, every Sunday millions of Russians, supposedly apathetic about their country's political affairs, tune in to his *Itogi* (Week in Review) programme which gives one of the best insights into how Russia is run.

Whether it is Mr Kiselyev's rambling review of the past seven days' events, punctuated by often cutting remarks, or his direct interview technique with Russia's leaders, the programme is considered required viewing for anyone interested in the affairs of state. "I see the journalists as the hunters and the politicians as the prey," said the veteran broadcaster, who began his career as a radio reporter. "Naturally those in power do not like it when their mistakes and shortcomings are revealed on television, but that is our role."

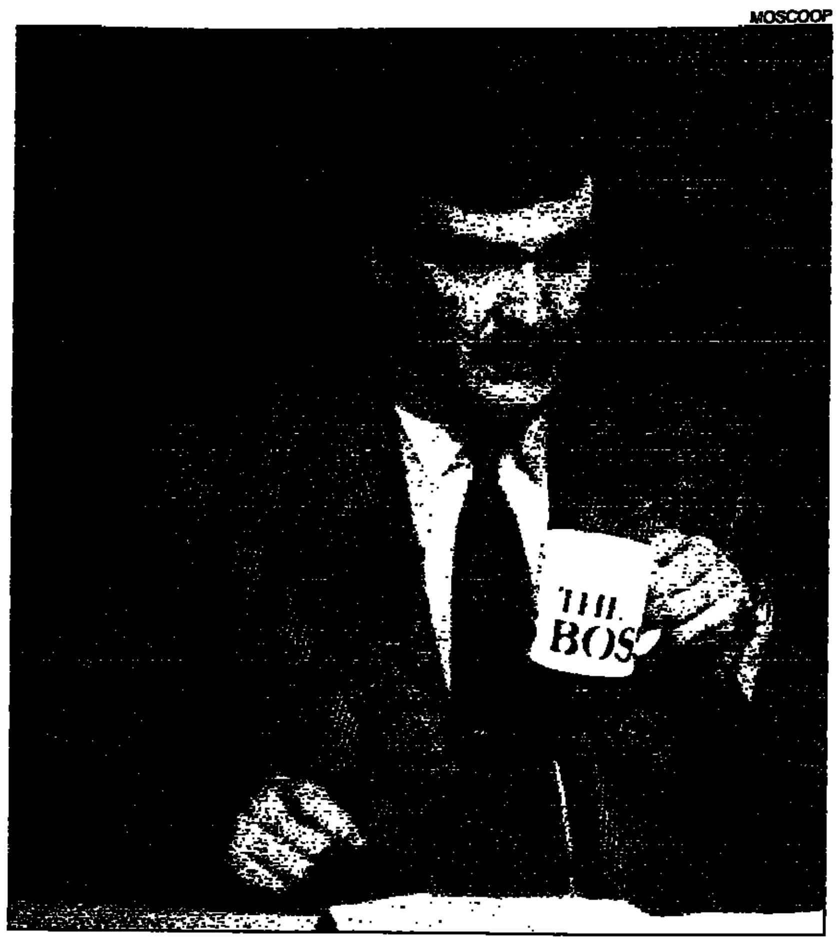
A few years ago, his threat against Russia's ruling class would have been dismissed as nonsense in a country where many reporters still pull their punches, but in the past two years his independent NTV channel has more than once stood up to the authorities and won. The biggest test of strength came earlier this year when Mr Kiselyev's *Itogi* programme and the nightly *Sevodnya* (Today) news broadcast attacked the Kremlin's bungled military operation in Chechenia, turning the conflict into a humiliating public relations setback for President Yeltsin and his associates.

In spite of regular threats that NTV would be shut down, the channel survived and hit back. Last month NTV's lengthy campaign against one of its biggest detractors, Aleksei Ilyushenko, the Prosecutor-General, succeeded when he was sacked by Mr Yeltsin.

"Ilyushenko's case certainly seems to have had an effect," Mr Kiselyev said. "Others in his position have been less eager to take us on."

With that in mind, television, and in particular Mr Kiselyev, are expected to play a crucial role in influencing the electorate in the run-up to next month's parliamentary polls. The candidates are beginning to recognise this and are beating a path to his door.

"Suddenly everyone wants to be on our show," Mr Kiselyev said. "It's pathetic sometimes the lengths they will go to get on air."



MOSCOOP

Yevgeni Kiselyev: his campaigning independent television channel eventually forced the dismissal of the Russian Prosecutor-General

Envoys of natural selection

THE shutdown of the American government machinery has led to some unpleasant decisions being made at Washington's missions in Russia, where a Darwinian selection procedure is underway to determine who is "essential" and who is "non-essential".

While most of the diplomats have continued working in the embassy in Moscow, their colleagues in the consulate in St Petersburg, including the visa section, have all been put on leave. Despite protestations by the US State Department that all its employees abroad are "really essential", the move has provoked disgruntled staff to remark that in Russia some diplomats are more equal than others.

Elite buying passport to immunity

JUST as the wives of Russia's new elite thought they had run out of ideas for Christmas presents for their husbands, a new item has appeared on the market which no gangster, politician or businessman can live without.

For a few thousand dollars each, Russians are buying diplomatic passports from Latin America which not only grant the holders immunity from the authorities, but also make interesting conversation pieces at dinner.

The trend was apparently set by "Mikhas", the leader of Moscow's Solntsevo mafia gang, who secured a Costa Rican diplomatic passport and has also been appointed an honorary consul in Moscow. *Izvestia* has published a price list for diplomatic passports, ranging from Panama at $65,000 (£41,400) to Costa Rica at $95,000. Several politicians, possibly worried that they will lose their parliamentary immunity if they fail to get re-elected in next month's polls, have got in on the act.

One prominent deputy has secured a second passport from the Dominican Republic, while another, fearing possible prosecution for fraud, has quietly moved to San Francisco with his family.

Skipper denies killing stowaways

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A UKRAINIAN sea captain, accused of complicity in the murder of eight African stowaways in 1992, proclaimed his innocence before a French court and portrayed himself as a gentle literary man in love with the sea.

"I was born in Odessa, by the sea. I read the literature of seagoing men, their culture and their wanderings ... Alexandre Dumas, Victor Hugo, Stendhal, Maupassant," Vladimir Ilnitsky, the former captain of the merchant ship *MC Ruby*, told a Rouen court last week.

That image is at odds with the crime of which Captain Ilnitsky, 60, stands accused. Five crew of the ship are charged with murdering eight stowaways and throwing their bodies into the Atlantic. Captain Ilnitsky "gave his second-in-command orders to go ahead with the elimination of these undesirable passengers", the prosecutors said.

The sole survivor, Kingsley Ofusu, is to give evidence against the Ukrainian sailors next week. Mr Ofusu, 25, whose ordeal is the subject of a forthcoming BBC drama, and his brother Albert were among eight young Ghanaian dockworkers who stowed away on the *MC Ruby* as it lay at dock in the Ghanaian port of Takoradi in October 1992. They found a Cameroonian also hiding among the cocoa pods in the ship's hold.

Six days out at sea, the stowaways were discovered and locked in a hatch. In the early hours of November 3, when the vessel was off the Portuguese coast, the stowaways were ordered on deck in pairs and "executed", according to Mr Ofusu. He managed to break free and escaped back into the hold where, despite repeated searches by the crew, he remained until the ship docked in Le Havre four days later. He then climbed through a grille and alerted harbour police. The alleged murder weapon, an M16 rifle, was later found lying at the bottom of the harbour.

Captain Ilnitsky has denied any knowledge about the murders until after the event. In court he claimed he merely told his crew to secure the stowaways and feed them. However, Valeri Artemenko, his second-in-command, has alleged that the captain told him "these stowaways must not stay aboard".

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has offered to help the accused men and a merchant shipping official in Kiev insisted on their innocence. Viktor Belykh, of the Black Sea Shipping Company, said the charges were "a provocation or a competitor's trick to discredit our shipping fleet".

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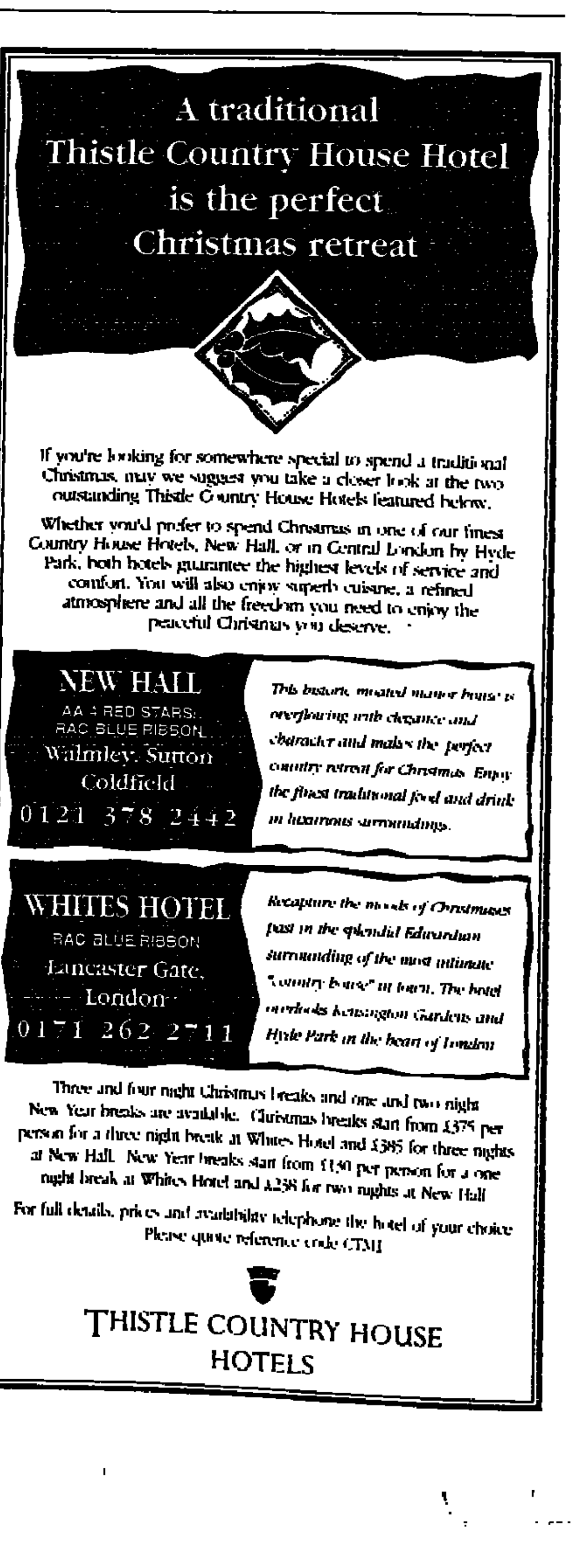
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Clinton aides push Balkan parties to seal peace deal

By Tom Rhodes in Washington and Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE United States appeared optimistic yesterday that a final agreement to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina could be sealed within the next few days.

Despite territorial disputes between the Serbs and the Muslims in eastern Bosnia and in the northeast corner, and complex discussions over the future of Sarajevo, the momentum for an agreement was building up.

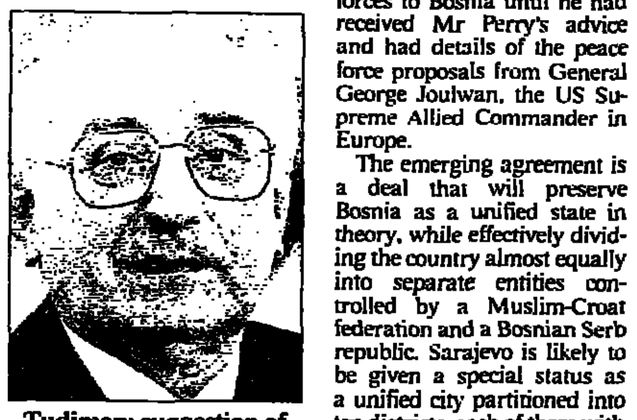
In a final push to get the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia to sign a deal, President Clinton sent his senior Cabinet members to the Dayton air force base in Ohio to add political muscle to the negotiations. Mr Clinton was said to be planning to visit Dayton to attend an initialling ceremony.

Amid increasing optimism about the outcome of the negotiations, President Tudjman of Croatia announced yesterday that he was prepared to normalise relations with Serbia. In a television address, he said that an agreement on normalisation would be signed with Serbia after the Muslims, Croats and Serbs had reached an accord on Bosnia, and after the international sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro had been lifted.

For the first time, Dr Tudjman also raised the possibility that Croats and Bosnian Serbs might exchange territories so that the Serbs can get access to the Adriatic Sea.

He said: "It was discussed whether the territory taken by the Croatian army in the hinterland of Dubrovnik [in 1991] should be exchanged for the area of Prevlaka." This is the area around the southeastern tip of Croatia along the border with Montenegro.

Dr Tudjman also said that the recent agreement to end the dispute over Croatia's province of Eastern Slavonia, occupied by the Serbs since the 1991 war, was of historic importance.



Tudjman: suggestion of land swap with Serbs

The encouraging signs from Dayton were given a dramatic fillip with the arrival at the base of William Perry, the Defence Secretary, and the announcement from the White House that Anthony Lake, the National Security Adviser, had been to Dayton on Thursday and was reporting back to Mr Clinton. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, was also due at Dayton last night after cutting short a visit to Japan.

The Pentagon has drawn up plans to send about 20,000 American troops to participate in a Nato-led peace implementation force. Pentagon officials have said that the President would not make a final decision on committing American forces to Bosnia until he had received Mr Perry's advice and had details of the peace force proposals from General George Joulwan, the US Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

The emerging agreement is a deal that will preserve Bosnia as a unified state in theory, while effectively dividing the country almost equally into separate entities controlled by a Muslim-Croat federation and a Bosnian Serb republic. Sarajevo is likely to be given a special status as a unified city partitioned into ten districts, each of them with autonomous powers.

Britain offered more EU votes

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

A SENIOR European commissioner yesterday called on Britain to "strike a bargain" with its partners over majority voting in European Union foreign and defence policy. In return for dropping its tough opposition to any change in the unanimity rule, Britain would be offered extra votes to take account of its world role. Hans van den Broek, the commissioner responsible for Brussels' enlargement negotiations with Eastern Europe, said the EU had to find a formula to help decision-making and to ensure a "genuinely Union approach" for common foreign policy, especially after more members joined.

All members had to acknowledge the world influence of Britain and France, the two permanent United Nations Security Council members. Germany, because of its economic weight, also fell into a special category. All three were tempted to go their own way in foreign policy. Mr van den Broek, addressing the TSB Forum in London, opposed a "directorate" of the bigger states and majority voting on military action.

Fifty years on, Nuremberg trial haunts fight for justice

Bosnian leaders face day of reckoning

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

EXILED Bosnians gather on Thursday evenings in a kebab house in Nuremberg's old town to exchange gossip about their ruined homeland. The latest tit-bit is that Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, the Pale Serb leaders, are bargaining for an amnesty.

The noose seems to be tightening round the necks of the general and the psychiatrist as the United Nations war crimes prosecutor in The Hague insists that they must face trial. For the moment they are necessary for the success of the peace being negotiated in Dayton, Ohio, but the Bosnian Government insists that long-term peace depends on justice.

Fifty years after the Nuremberg trials opened, the equation of peace and justice is high on the international agenda. It is doubtful, of course, whether any of the regular visitors to Omar's café will see the exhibitions staged by the city under the label "1935-1945-1995: Mourning, gratitude, self-commitment". Yet the "1995" refers to these Bosnians, moonlighting in the city as dishwashers and pizza delivery men, while waiting for peace to return. This is their concern: can the 1945 Nuremberg trials answer the quest for a legal reckoning with the murderers, rapists and arsonists of the Balkans?

Nazi leaders on trial in Nuremberg in August 1946, front row from left, Rudolf Hess, Hermann Goering, Joachim Von Ribbentrop, and Wilhelm Keitel. They were found guilty of crimes against peace

Nuremberg was chosen partly because the city was one of the cradles of national socialism. It was here that racial discrimination laws were proclaimed in 1935, excluding Jews from many professions, outlawing marriage and sexual relations between Germans and Jews. It was the city of the virulent anti-Semite, Julius Streicher, and the home of Leni Riefenstahl, who filmed the Nazi party's huge torchlit Nuremberg rallies.

There was a practical side, however: the Palace of Justice, built of solid stone, had survived the Allied bombing and was one of the few buildings in Germany that could house a large public trial.

However, Robert Ley, the head of the Nazi labour organisation, managed to poison himself. Hermann Goering, arrested with Joachim Von Ribbentrop, the Foreign Minister, in a Luxembourg hotel, also committed suicide.

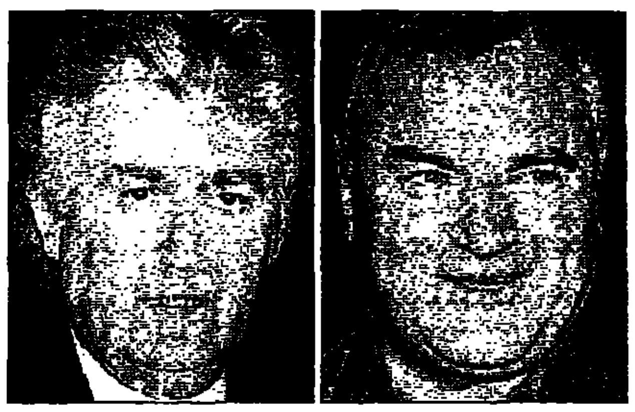
Today it is the legal problems of Nuremberg that are best remembered: the trials are derided, not only by far-Right revisionists, as "victors' justice". To establish that the Nazi leaders in the dock — Goering, Ribbentrop, Streicher, Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, Rudolf Hess, the Deputy Führer, Hans Frank, the Governor of occupied Poland, and 18 others — were guilty of "crimes against peace", new interpretations of international law had to be found quickly.

There really was no choice to victors' justice, however. It was not feasible to let the Germans try their leaders. That had been tried in 1918 and only a handful of the 900 accused came near a courtroom. By demanding unconditional surrender in 1945, the Allies had taken on the task of handing out postwar justice. The final verdict in 1946, 11 executions, seven jail terms and three acquittals, did have a symbolic value.

> ❛ The Hague tribunal's fairness may paralyse it. Nuremberg handed out imperfect justice but it was effective ❜

The Nuremberg trial represented a quantum leap in international law. Some of the principles established 50 years ago have become part of international jurisprudence. There is a convention against genocide and a whole web of treaties that protect civilians and prisoners of war. Since Nuremberg, the defence argument that a murderer was merely carrying out orders no longer carries weight.

The UN tribunal is in some ways more cautious than Nuremberg. In 1945, Martin Bormann was tried in absentia; in The Hague — where the UN is holding only one suspect, Dusan Tadic, the Serb camp commander, — the judges will begin a trial only when the defendant is physically in the dock. It is difficult to lay charges of victors' justice against The Hague lawyers.



Dr Karadzic, left, and General Mladic must face trial

Yet one could argue that the fairness of The Hague tribunal will also paralyse it. The Nuremberg hearings may have handed out imperfect justice but it was effective. The Hague prosecutors will have problems investigating crimes, finding culprits, serving warrants and bringing them to The Netherlands. Establishing guilt will be more complex than in Mafia trials. The chain of command, when it comes to massacring civilians on the fringes of a battlefield, is unclear.

It is important, however, for The Hague court to accept and adhere to the principles set out by Robert Jackson, the Nuremberg chief prosecutor. He said: "We do not accept the paradox that where power is greatest, legal responsibility is smallest. We insist on the principle of responsible government, proclaimed more than three centuries ago by Lord Chief Justice Coke in addressing his King James: that even a king stands 'under God and under the law'."

Sound words that may one day cause sleepless nights for the butchers of Sarajevo.

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Clinton emerges winner in great shutdown

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON is emerging as the big winner in America's great 1995 government shutdown, which yesterday continued for a fourth day. He also sent Congress his own stopgap funding Bill to try to end the impasse, enhancing his position as the champion of popular social programmes that Republican "extremists" would destroy.

He is exchanging his image of vacillation for that of a leader prepared to stand and fight. He has rallied his dispirited party and, even if disgusted voters turn to Ross Perot's new third party, that would help him by splitting the Republican vote.

The confrontation is over radically different visions of the future size and role of government as set out in competing Republican and White House budget plans.

It is the head-on ideological crash that Washington has waited for since the Republicans seized control of Congress last November. The outcome will probably determine the results of next year's presidential and congressional elections, and the three key players, Mr Clinton, Newt Gingrich, the House Republican Speaker, and Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, have precious little room for compromise.

The great danger for the President is that the Republicans will manage to sell their image of him to the public; this portrays him as a defender of "big government" and the sort of fiscal irresponsibility that is burdening future generations with huge debts.

The shutdown led yesterday to Arizona's Governor calling on the National Guard to keep the Grand Canyon open. But the shutdown order and a strip of yellow police tape were not enough to keep Ed Harding from seeing the great riverway. "We're not going to leave. We gave them the money for four days," he said, referring to the permit to camp he bought before the budget confrontation.

Mr Harding added: "After all, this is government property and we are the Government, aren't we?"

Secret file 'shows Rabin suspect is security threat'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TEL AVIV

A TEL AVIV judge yesterday rejected a request to release the former girlfriend of Yitzhak Rabin's self-confessed assassin after police submitted that she posed a threat to national security as a result of information in a secret dossier not read out in court.

Margalit Harshefi, 20, a law student and part-time teacher of gifted children, is claimed by police investigators to have been a "central and dominant figure" in the religiously inspired conspiracy to sabotage the peace process by murdering Rabin and launching terror attacks against Palestinians.

As the court hearing took place, a picture began to emerge of a well-organised conspiracy to kill Rabin and attack Palestinian targets.

Ms Harshefi requested through her lawyer to be transferred to house arrest with her parents in the hardline Jewish settlement of Beit El, or to have a 12-day remand cut to two or three days.

Judge Drora Pilpel turned down the requests after being shown a secret police file outlining a right-wing conspiracy for which seven suspects are in detention. "The secret material contains accusations of what could be seen as a threat to national security," Zion Sasson, a police investigator, told the court.

Both Ms Harshefi and the assassin, Yigal Amir, 25, studied law at the religious Bar Ilan University. Yesterday, Yair Golan, Ms Harshefi's lawyer, tried unsuccessfully to convince the judge that although his client had been friends with Mr Amir, she had known nothing about the assassination plot and played no part in devising it as the police alleged.

"She was shocked, just as all of Israel was shocked by the murder of Prime Minister Rabin," the lawyer said. "To the best of my knowledge, she was not part of the group."

Mr Amir's elder brother Haggai, one of the seven suspects, has said in court that in his view the murder was sanctioned by Halachic (Orthodox Jewish) religious law. It is alleged that he modified the homemade dum-dum bullets that killed Rabin.

The hearing involving Ms Harshefi came hours after a further escalation in the crisis facing Israel with the disclosure by *Haaretz*, the leading Hebrew daily, that the Cabinet of Shimon Peres, the acting Prime Minister, is planning to introduce detention without trial for Israelis living inside the country's 1967 borders who are accused of incitement against the Government. According to Israeli security sources, the police and the Shin Bet security service have already drawn up lists of suspects. The move is expected to increase anger on the Right that a witch-hunt is being conducted against it.

According to his lawyer, Dror Adani, one of the seven detained suspects, was asked by Mr Amir to seek a rabbi's blessing for the murder on November 4. The killing was carried out primarily to prevent Mr Rabin's Labour-led Government from handing back West Bank land to the Palestinians which Jewish militants believe is part of Israel's biblical heritage.

The rabbi, who has not yet been named, allegedly told Mr Adani that Rabin was a *rodef*, Hebrew for "oppressor", but denied permission to have him killed. The lawyer said that Mr Adani "was told by the rabbi that it was forbidden to touch him [Rabin] or kill him or any other Jew because this could cause civil war and increase the troubles among the Jewish people".

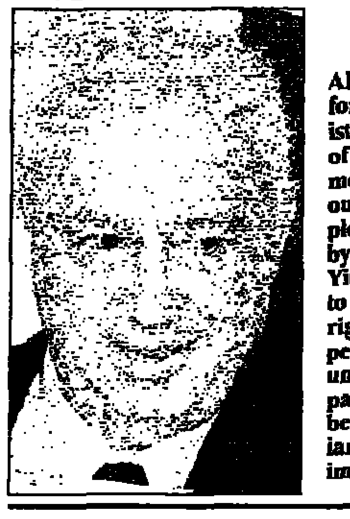
The police said yesterday that they had put together a list of rabbis whom the assassin knew, but had not yet begun questioning them to discover whether any gave him a blessing to pull the trigger. Two rabbis from West Bank settlements have denied knowing of the assassination or justifying it.

However, Yoel Bin-Nun, another West Bank rabbi under round-the-clock armed guard after rightwing death threats, has said he knew of colleagues who pronounced Rabin a *rodef*, who under Orthodox Jewish law should be punished by death.

The mystical-religious aspect of the conspiracy has been intensified by details of an ancient withcraft curse that was circulated at Israeli synagogues on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement in October, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Some leading Jewish authorities fear it may have inspired the plotters. Mr Amir told friends before he shot Rabin: "I have already made my peace with God."

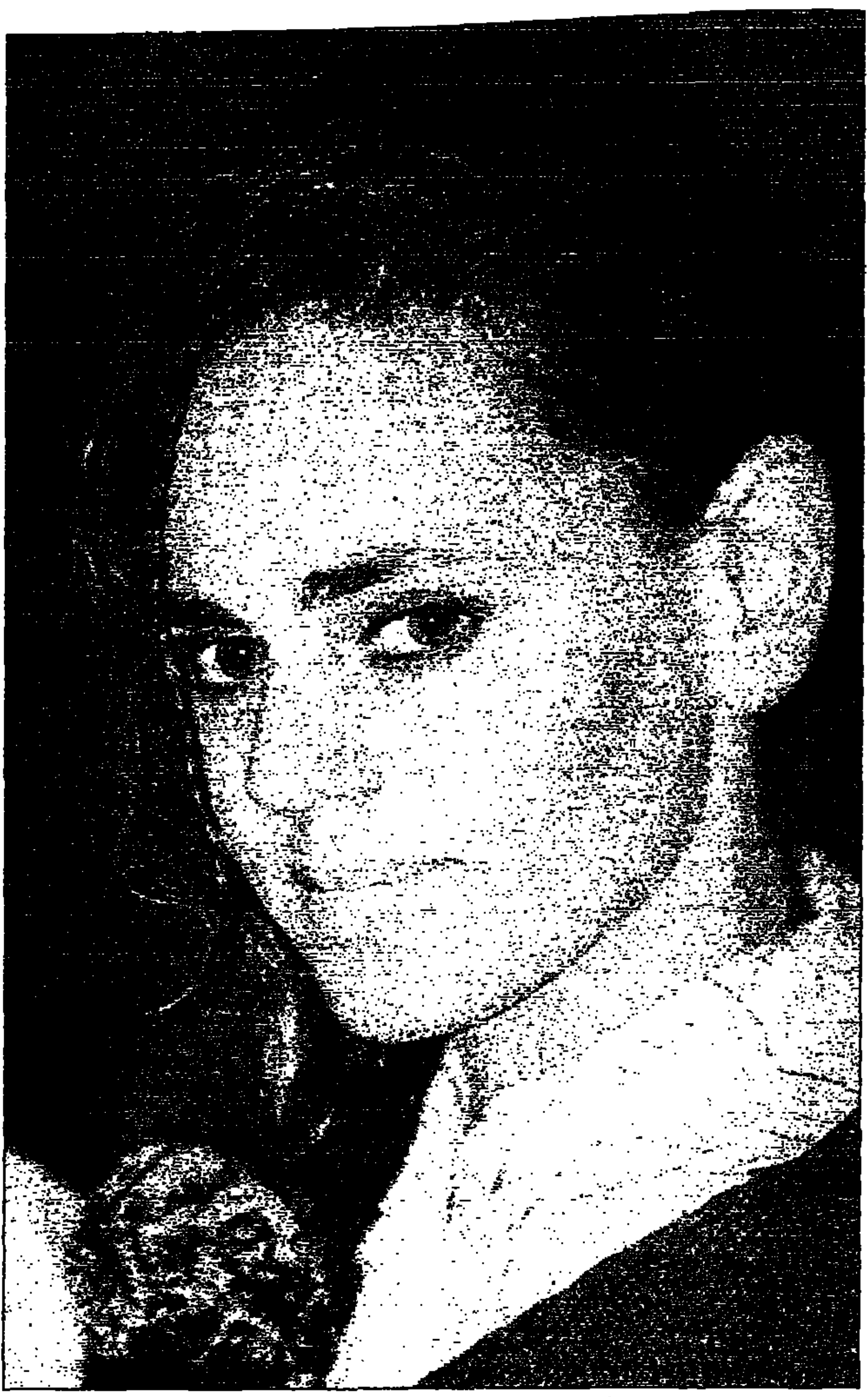
The curse declared: "As for Yitzhak the son of Rosa, known as Rabin, we have permission from the angels of destruction that they run through this evil man with swords . . . they must kill him because he led astray the holy people and delivered the land of Israel to our enemies."

A fuller picture of the assassination plot is expected to emerge when the state inquiry into the murder opens in Jerusalem tomorrow.



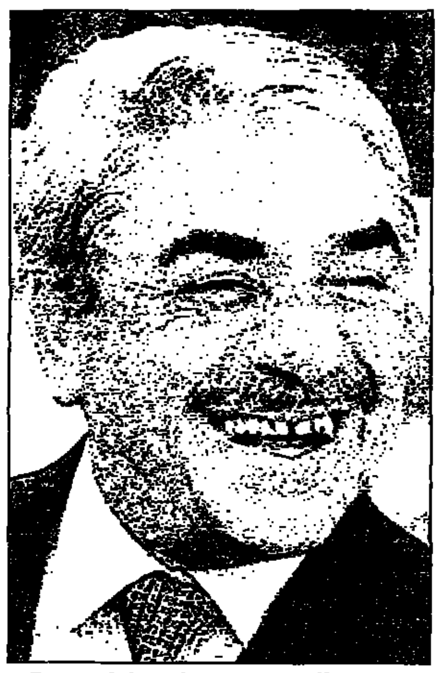
Sharon defiant

ARIEL SHARON, left, the former Israeli Defence Minister, has staged a media tour of West Bank Jewish settlements. He accused the Labour-led Government of exploiting the grief prompted by the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin two weeks ago to try to weaken the resolve of right-wing opponents of the peace process. He said that under the right-wing Likud party, the land would never be given back to the Palestinians because of its strategic importance.



Margalit Harshefi in a Tel Aviv court yesterday where police said that she was a "dominant figure" in the plot to kill Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister

Poll-rigging alleged after Zeroual's landslide win



Zeroual: his victory may allow him to resume dialogue with militants

ALGERIA'S Hamas Islamic party leader claimed yesterday there had been massive rigging in Thursday's presidential election which President Zeroual won comfortably.

Engulfed by celebratory automatic machinegun fire, the streets of the Algerian capital enjoyed a rare easing of tension as supporters of the President rode in victory convoys, despite the claims by Sheikh Mafhoud Nahnah, the Hamas leader.

The poll results gave Liamine Zeroual 61.34 per cent of the vote. Sheikh Nahnah took just over 25 per cent, with Said Saadi, the anti-Islamist, trailing with 9.29 per cent and Noureddine Boukrouh, the Islamist intellectual, winning 3.78 per cent. The authorities said nearly 12 million people, almost 75 per cent of the electorate, voted in the poll.

At a press conference, an angry Sheikh Nahnah claimed that four million names added to the electoral register since the last election in 1991 could not be justified by population growth. He said his supporters and polling observers had been intimidated by the authorities, denying them the chance to expose cheating, and that ballot boxes had disappeared.

Sheikh Nahnah, who may be offered a post in the new Government, immediately called for the authorities to "open themselves up to all political forces within Algeria, without exception . . . including the armed groups" he said, in reference to the banned Islamic Salvation Front and the Armed Islamic Group, whose conflict with the Government since 1992 has left 40,000 people dead.

Disputing the turnout figure, Rabah Kebir, the head of the Islamic Salvation Front in Europe, said figures he had obtained from Algerian administration sources showed a turnout of 30 to 33 per cent. Hocine Ait Ahmed, the head of the Socialist Forces Front which had backed a boycott of the election, said the violence would not stop. "We are back to square one. The elections will not solve the basic problem, which is the spilling of blood," he told LCI, the French television station, in an interview from Geneva.

At his campaign headquarters yesterday, President Zeroual would only say that he was "the President of all Algerians, and a new path has opened up in front of us". His 20 bodyguards refused to allow journalists to ask him questions.

It is a mark of Algeria's desperation that the candidate who has already shown himself unable to end the crisis, won against candidates who were all offering radically alternative solutions to the crisis. The key question now is whether President Zeroual's victory will allow him to restart talks, or whether he will continue to sideline the Islamic Salvation Front politically and confront the Armed Islamic Group militarily. If he uses the election to give more of the same strategy, but under a democratic guise, then it is likely that Algeria will suffer more years of violence.

The French Government welcomed the election result as an opportunity for President Zeroual to introduce democratic reforms. France remained officially neutral during the election, while making no secret of its view that a strengthened President Zeroual would be more likely to open talks with opponents, push through democratic reforms and perhaps bring an end to the recent wave of Islamic terrorism in France.

"France hopes that this election will open the way to a political dialogue, signalling the start of a democratic process leading to legislative elections," the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement. President Zeroual has been entrusted with a "lofty mission" to "bring back civil peace and work towards economic and social recovery," the statement said.

The most recent terrorist bombing in France occurred more than a month ago, but the Government announced yesterday that the massive anti-terrorist operation, codenamed Vigipirate, would remain in force in the wake of the Algerian election.

"There is no question of lifting the Vigipirate plan as long as the terrorist threat remains .. fs2. we're not going to lower our guard," Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister, told *Le Figaro* newspaper.

> ■ If the Algerian President uses the crushing of his election opponents to deliver more of the same strategy, under a democratic guise, then the spilling of more blood is likely to carry on in the country for many years to come

Chicken falls foul of Delhi

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE first, and probably last, Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets in India have been ordered to close on the ground that they are unhygienic. In a country ruled by the mighty microbe, this is one of the greater political farces to emerge from the traumatic era of economic liberalisation.

Indians generally hate the idea of the foreign economic invasion, which was held back for almost half a century by Soviet-style protectionism. A mild case of xenophobia complemented a popular affection for Mahatma Gandhi's notion of national self-reliance, or *swadeshi*, and stopped India becoming like everywhere else. Indians want to keep it that way.

Kentucky Fried Chicken's problem lay in the timing. Coca-Cola slipped in before liberalisation took hold, and before Hindu nationalists became powerful. Delhi is run by the hardline Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has tapped a rich political vein by reinventing *swadeshi*. The state administration of Delhi said that the fast-food chain's hygiene was deplorably bad. Never mind that the thousands of *dhabas* (pavement cafés) in the capital heave with disease: they are Indian. KFC is not.

The first restaurant to fall victim to *swadeshi* was in the southern city of Bangalore. It was accused of using too much monosodium glutamate.

Sandeep Kohli, the managing director of the company's operations in India, said that the closure decision was outrageous and it would be challenged in court.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Extradition of ex-SS captain to go ahead

Buenos Aires: Erich Priebke, the former SS captain who faces charges of complicity in a Second World War massacre of 335 civilians in Nazi-ruled Italy, will be extradited to Rome on Monday. Priebke, 82, waged a 17-month legal battle to fight the extradition but lost this month. His lawyer said Priebke was "devastated" by the speed of the extradition. *(AP)*

Hostage 'very ill'

Srinagar: The Muslim separatist group holding four Western tourists, including two Britons, in Kashmir, said one of the hostages was very ill and near death. The captive was not identified. *(AFP)*

Judge dismissed

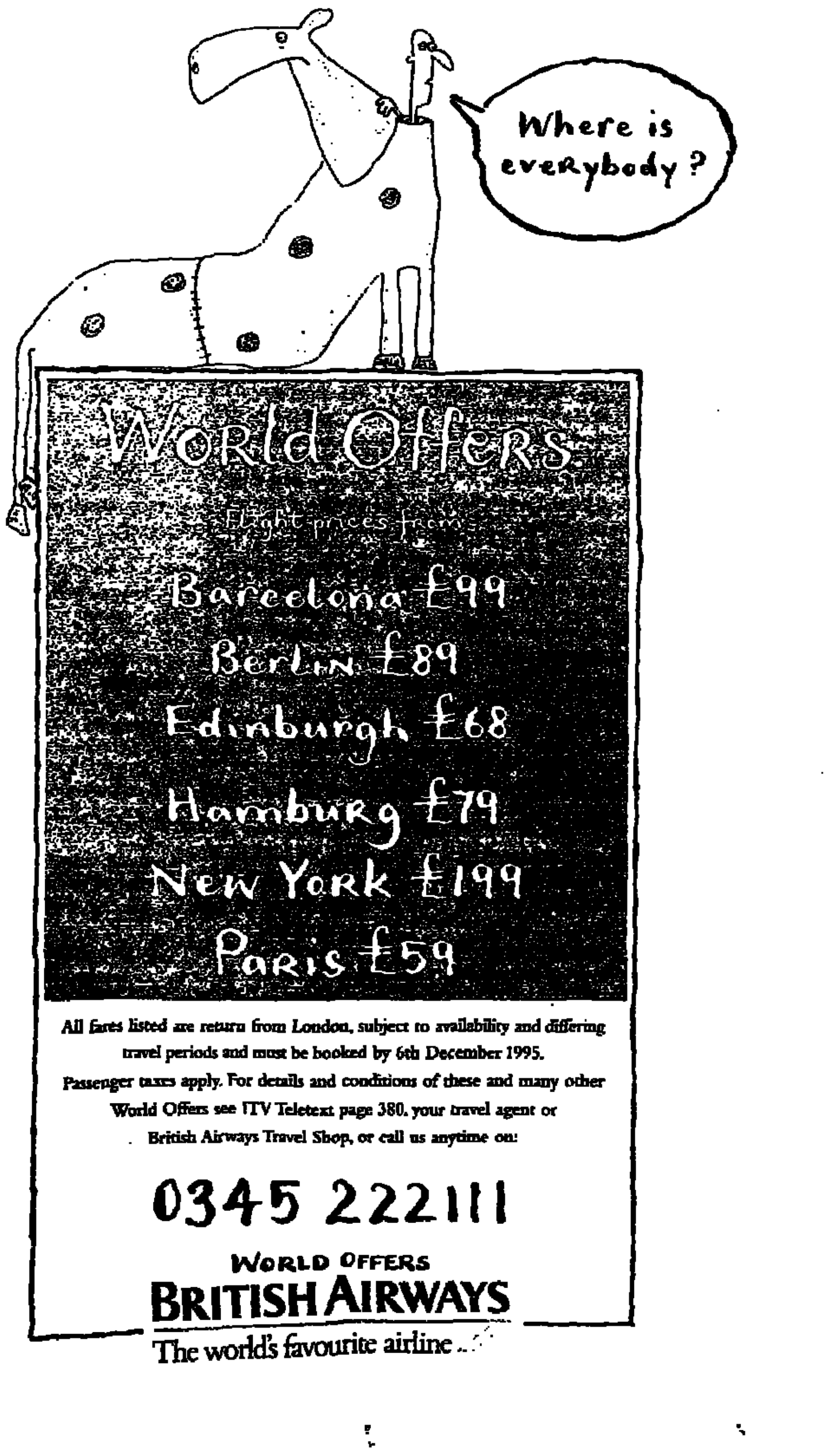
Berlin: The presiding judge in the trial of Egon Krenz, East Germany's last hardline communist leader, and five others accused of manslaughter was removed after being accused of bias. *(Reuter)*

'Priest' collared

New York: John Fortune, 35, unemployed, is under arrest for dressing up in a dog-collar and cassock and impersonating a Catholic priest to hear confessions and defraud a widow of $12,000 (£7,500).

Mane runway

New York: Mounted security men have been introduced at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, one of the world's busiest, to prevent theft in the long-term car park. The horses are trained to ignore jets and car alarms.



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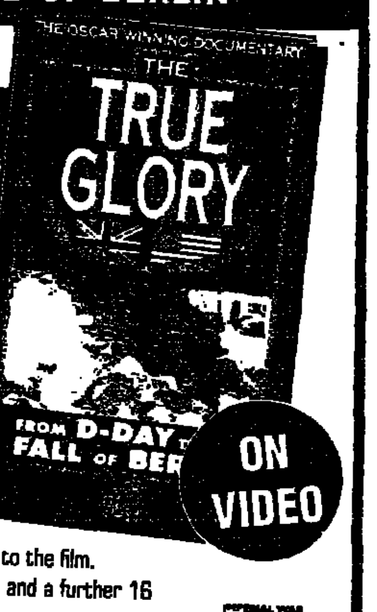

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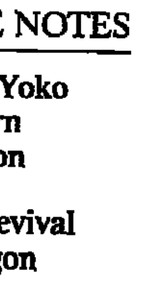
■ OPINION

The rebirth of John Travolta, superstar: a cause for celebration in Hollywood?

■ OPERA

Spurious stage direction mars the centenary production of Hindemith's *Mathis der Maler*

THE TIMES ARTS



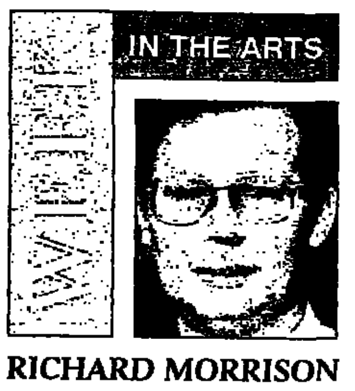
■ BASE NOTES

Now it's Yoko Ono's turn to jump on the great Beatles revival bandwagon

■ BASE NOTES

The producers of a new musical about Dusty Springfield are looking for someone to play the 1960s pop icon

Death in scarlet and life after disco



IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Hollywood managed to demolish two whiskery showbiz myths this week. The first, which always seemed a bit suspect, is "there's no such thing as bad publicity". Oh boy, there is. Ask Miss Demi Moore, the gloriously formed American actress. In America her latest movie, *The Scarlet Letter*, received the kind of reviews that you could distil into pure sulphuric acid. So this week, when the film came out in Britain, the distributors took the simple precaution of not showing it to critics in advance.

Of course this wheeze has backfired. Liberated from the boring necessity of seeing the movie before writing about it, some cruel journalistic wags instead speculated with morbid relish about how bad *The Scarlet Letter* could be. But I fear that we are witnessing a growing trend. Some recent Broadway productions have run for weeks in "preview" because, while they stay in that primordial state, they are not reviewed by the ferociously macho theatre hacks of *The New York Times* (motto: "You spend a million dollars staging it; we spend 500 words closing it").

The second myth demolished this week was "there are no second acts in American lives". Oh no? Consider the remarkable renaissance of Mr John Travolta. You will recall his "previous", as they say in magistrates' courts. Circa 1978, he was the star of *Grease* and *Saturday Night Fever*. Then he sank without trace until Quentin Tarantino — revered pioneer of the "if it moves, kill it" school of movie-making — plucked him from obscurity for *Pulp Fiction* and gave him a role as a drug-crazed hitman (there being no other roles in Tarantino films).

Astonishingly, the reborn Travolta made such an impact that this week he was declared the highest-paid star in Hollywood, at $21 million a film. Gosh, that's more than I earn in an entire year . . . well, certainly after tax.

But don't get the wrong idea about Travolta. "John is a sweet guy, and hardly a money-grubbing star," says his agent, Jonathan Krane — and I want to believe him. Travolta has defied a ruthless traditon: that once the studios discard you, you stay discarded. For that, he deserves however many dollars he can screw out of them. I just hope he doesn't do that silly dance again.

And now a few words about law and order. Out of every ten readers of this column (assuming, of course, that there *are* ten readers), eight will be criminals. That, at least, is what is claimed by the hawk-eyed folk at the Copyright Licensing Agency, and the crime they are talking about is illegal photocopying. This month they launched "Copywatch", a snoop-and-tell campaign targeted at businesses that have not bought a licence allowing them to make copies of documents in copyright.

They have even set up a hotline for people "who want to tell the CLA about unauthorised copying". In other words, do you hate your boss? One quick anonymous call, one dawn raid — and hey presto, he or she is lumbered with a massive fine and terrible publicity! It's tempting, isn't it?

And the CLA (I nearly typed CIA), along with other rights agencies, has had some spectacular successes in recent years. Manchester City Council had to pay £75,000 because it allowed "large scale infringement of copyright works" in its schools. Our friends at Mirror Group Newspapers — tut tut, boys — paid an out-of-court settlement rumoured to be well into six figures after illegal copies of computer software were seized in a raid on their premises. The London office of the securities trader Morgan Stanley was discovered to have made 23 illicit copies of a technical manual, and had to pay several thousand pounds. And individual churches, schools and colleges up and down the land have also been hit for illegal photocopying or recording.

Two points should be made about this rather sinister campaign to put a spy by every office photocopier. The first is this. Clearly we should not break the law. Authors, composers and publishers have to eat, and they are already in a precarious business. It is morally indefensible for profitable companies to stoop to illicit photocopying.

What I find slightly less reprehensible is the photocopying from textbooks that goes on in state schools. Teachers are driven to do this, by and large, in desperation because their paltry budgets do not stretch to such luxuries as bulk orders of textbooks for a whole class. Sorry to be political, but that is the reality. If the Government is concerned to stamp out this crime, it must address the causes.

Secondly, there is a very good reason why the copyright collecting organisations are getting so militant now. In two or three years the Internet, and all the other wondrous paraphernalia of the information superhighway, will explode the dissemination of copyright material into a system so vast, instantaneous and anarchic that it may well be unpoliceable. But here I stray into areas that no arty type pretends to understand, so I shall come to an abrupt halt. Meanwhile, if any of you feel moved to make a quick photocopy of this article to send to friends — well, it's fine with me, but Big Brother may be watching you.

OPERA: Peter Sellars's production does its best to ruin Hindemith's anti-Nazi masterpiece, says **Rodney Milnes**

Glory arrested by PC plod

Mathis der Maler
Covent Garden

First things first: the Royal Opera's new production of Hindemith's questing, healing masterwork — premiered on the centenary of his birth on Thursday — is a musical triumph. The hero of the whole project is the conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen, who in concert with orchestra, chorus and a very well-chosen cast reveals the extraordinary riches of the score.

This is by no means an easy task: on the surface, at least, a certain austerity, a high seriousness and a refusal to hurry (we are in the theatre for four hours) make *Mathis* unlikely fodder for today's audiences-in-a-hurry. But under Salonen's faultless direction the corresponding strengths of the piece are cannily emphasised. Although fully within the German tradition, the music skips over Wagner; its roots are nurtured in Bach and the contrapuntalists, just as Weill's were before he, too, was driven into exile. Composers in the Germany of the 1930s found a way out of the shadow of the Wizard of Bayreuth, a way of renewing a great tradition. Here, the clarity of Hindemith's musical thought was matched by the clarity of texture in the pit in music that is horribly difficult to play — the slightest slip would be mercilessly exposed — and no praise can be too high for the work that has gone into the musical preparation of *Mathis*.

But Salonen also emphasised the work's more obvious attractions: its lyricism (there are tunes of piercing beauty); its almost traditional structure (each scene has near-Puccinian dramatic shape); its natural, if leisurely, pace. The structuring of quasi-recitative, arioso and set number renews, again, a great tradition while looking firmly towards the future.

Above all, *Mathis* incontrovertibly works as drama. The subject is one that has concerned composers from the Monteverdi of *Orfeo* onwards: the position of the artist in society. Mathis — better known as Matthias Grünewald, creator of the Isenheim Altarpiece — worked at the time of the Peasants' War of 1524-25, and was employed by Cardinal Albrecht of Brandenburg, Archbishop of Mainz. Martin Luther's reforms were changing society, and the parallels with Hindemith's world in 1933 — the collapse of the Weimar Republic, the battle between left and right, so recently lost — are laid out in a brilliant programme-book essay by Tim Ashley, which also points out the direct challenges to the Nazis in Hindemith's own libretto that ensured it could never be performed in Germany (the premiere took place in Zurich in 1938).

Sadly, Hindemith's vision is greatly diminished by the Peter Sellars production. The programme synopsis is Sellars's, not Hindemith's — all reference to the Peasants' War is expunged, and there is no mention of the altarpiece that should supply the imagery for Mathis's climactic vision in the sixth scene. The surtitles — two sets, on proscenium and stage, not always agreeing — are credited to Ashley, but come in demotic Sellars-ese: "Stuff yourselves, eat, get pissed and get laid", that sort of thing.

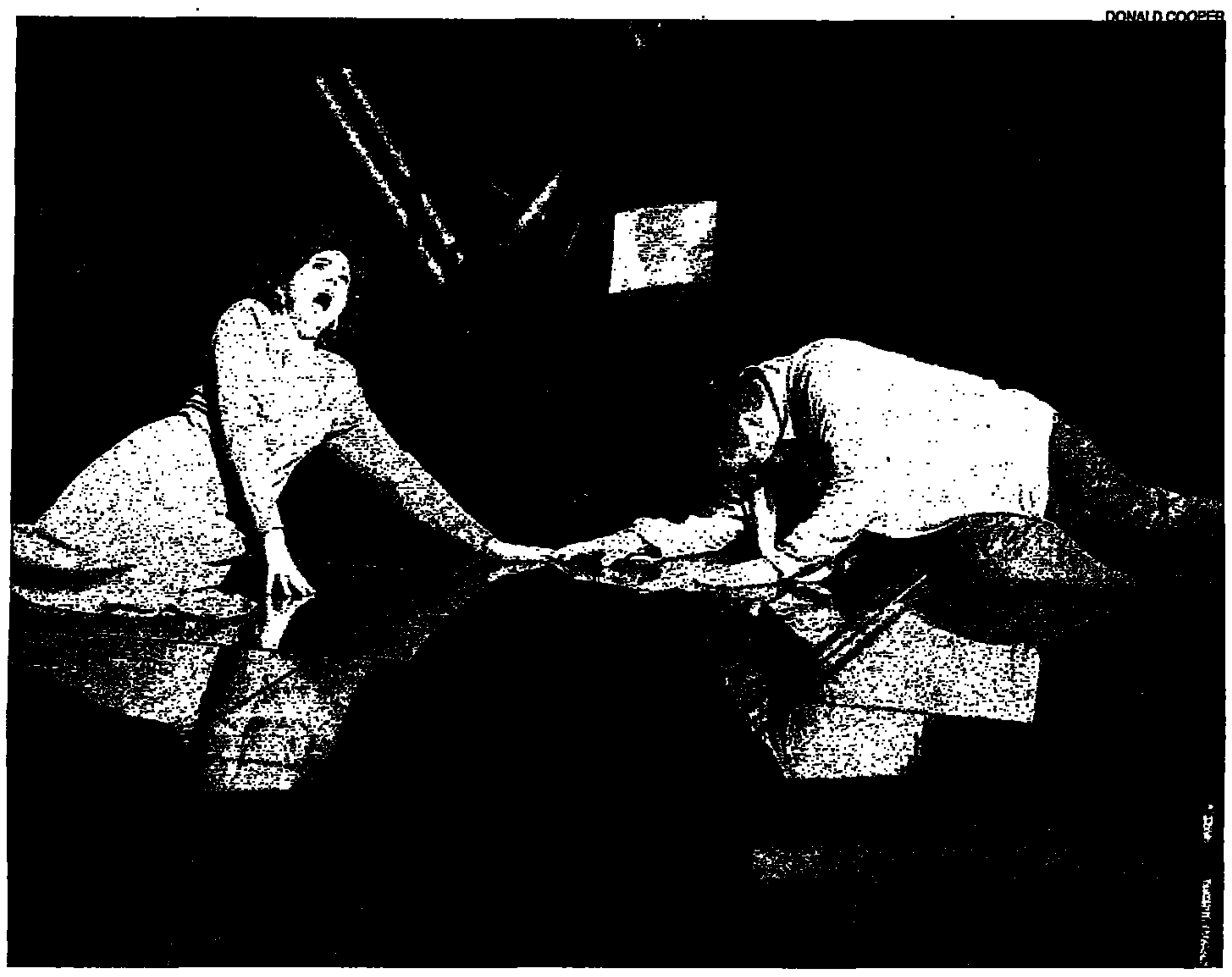
The setting is ostensibly America today, with "the poor" substituted for the Peasants. The confrontations between Church and laity pass almost unnoticed when they all are just men in grey suits. We are basically being subjected to a lecture in political correctness; Hindemith was aiming somewhat higher.

The lecture is also extremely messy. Half-hidden television monitors flicker nothingnesses; the chorus is banished to the orchestra stalls, their place on stage taken by supernumeraries miming meaninglessly, which severely compromises the power of at least two crucial scenes. Enough: when Sellars gets something wrong, he gets it wrong in *spades*.

Until, that is, the last scene, when the monitors were banished, half the surtitles disappeared, and four people were left alone to command the stage: suddenly the audience was gripped by the glowing beauty of Hindemith's music. The evening was worth it just for that.

The cast managed heroically. Alan Titus was ideally sonorous and fervent in the title role, although he was not allowed to suggest an artist of any kind. Inga Nielsen was tireless in the heroic soprano role of Ursula, muse and symbol of potential reconciliation. Stig Anderson was strong yet mellifluous as the marvellously conceived and composed Cardinal Albrecht, while Christiane Oelze was very touching as the peasant-girl victim. Gwynne Howell, Yvonne Minton and Robert Tear gave loyal support, all helping to ensure that Hindemith just about survived.

DONALD COOPER



Inga Nielsen, "tireless in the heroic soprano role of Ursula" and Alan Titus, "ideally sonorous and fervent as Mathis"

BASE NOTES

IN A sudden and unexpected move, the Royal Ballet has parted company with one of its leading dancers. A terse announcement from Covent Garden said yesterday that "Zoltan Solymosi will leave the company with immediate effect owing to irreconcilable differences with the company's director Anthony Dowell and senior artistic staff".

Solymosi joined the Royal Ballet more than three years ago, primarily as a partner for Darcey Bussell. He had been scheduled to make his debut as Apollo at the Royal Opera House on Thursday. His place will now be taken by Jonathan Cope.

☐ SINGER and 1960s icon **Dusty Springfield** is the inspiration for a new musical due to open in London in April 1996. *Dusty*, conceived by Ray Cooney but written by Paul Prescott, will tell the story of Carol, a woman whose life changed completely when, as a teenager in 1963, she discovered the singer and her music. Barbara Dickson will play Carol; a nationwide search is under way to find an "unknown singer" to portray Dusty as she was back in the days of beehives and panda eyes.

☐ TAKING advantage of all the hype surrounding the Beatles revival, John Lennon's widow, **Yoko Ono**, will release her first LP in 14 years through EMI in January. Meanwhile, Parlophone Records has announced that the group's first new single in 25 years, *Free As A Bird*, is under armed guard in America, awaiting its worldwide release on December 4.

☐ AS IF Hollywood acclaim were not enough, the actor **Johnny Depp** (*Edward Scissorhands, Don Juan de Marco*) is bidding for rock 'n' roll stardom with his new band, P. A debut single titled *Michael Stipe* will be unveiled in January, its *B*-side a cover of Abba's *Dancing Queen*.

Tonic from a trouper

CABARET

Julie Rogers
Café Royal

CONSIDERING that it is 31 years since she first put *The Wedding* into the charts, Julie Rogers looks astonishingly young. A strikingly beautiful, slim and elegant silver blonde, she has also contrived not simply to preserve her voice but to improve it.

Still a teenager when her version of an Argentinian song, *La Novia*, acquired its status as a popular anthem for wedding celebrations, Rogers may have slipped from sight as far as the chart compilers are concerned, but she has clearly not been wasting her time.

For her three-week season at the Green Room she has put together a show which combines old and new standards, some sensitively interpreted show tunes and not a little humour.

A larger-than-usual band, under the direction of Jo Morley, provides all that is necessary for the showstoppers such as *Fame*, *The Power of Love* and *The Birth of the Blues*, but perhaps her most impressive work, in a performance which packed many excellent things into an hour and 20 minutes, is with less showy accompaniment.

Almost the last thing you expect to hear is a fresh and convincing version of *Send in the Clowns*, but Rogers, with sympathetic piano, takes Sondheim's over-exposed and much-mangled song and reintroduces you to it. Similarly, *The Best of Times* and *I Am What I Am* come up shining.

She even manages to infuse warmth and humanity into *As If We Never Said Goodbye*, which in other hands can sound steely and cold, as impersonal as the scene-changing machinery in the show, *Sunset Boulevard*, from which it comes.

Estimates of how many copies of *The Wedding* have now been sold around the world have it at more than ten million, which would make it one of the all-time bestsellers. Its enduring popularity is beyond doubt, and contributes to the demand for Rogers to perform everywhere from Thailand to Canada, a schedule which has polished her talent to the high gloss she is now exhibiting.

She gently pokes fun at her fellow singers, including Garland and Bassey (whose defiance of the passage of time is as striking as Rogers's own), and does not take herself too seriously, either.

But the glamour would be much less attractive if it were not so clear that she is a feeling and intelligent performer whose work expresses an emotional honesty rare in such well-travelled troupers, and all the more welcome.

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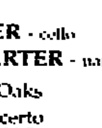

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Sun 19 Nov 6.00	**Wagner: Tannhauser** M Brabbins (cond) Chelsea Opera Group Orch & Chorus. M Lloyd-Davies, D Stafford (sop) R Berkeley-Steele, P Hoare, J Lloyd-Roberts (ten) D Barrell (bar) A Greenan, J Carl, G O'Connor (bass) £25 - £6
Mon 20 Nov 7.45	**Klezmatics** The Klezmatics are the foremost exponents of klezmer or kosher folk-jazz. This manhattan group's musical roots stretch into classical, jazz and salsa fields. £12.50
Tue 21 Nov 7.45	**Rumillajta and Friends** The Bolivian folk ensemble are joined by Luzmila Carpio, Sirinu, Anne Wood, Miles & Giraldo (dance duo) and a troupe of panpipers. Sponsored by Journey Latin America. £14 - £10
Thu 23 Nov 7.45	**Cristina Ortiz** International Piano Series. Works by Gottschalk, Grieg, Albéniz, Debussy, Stenhammar, Ravel, Cadman, Villa-Lobos. £15 - £6

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The Daily Telegraph

Christmas Festival 1995

Barbican Centre BOX OFFICE: 0171 638 8891 (9.00am - 8.00pm daily)

THURS 28 DEC at 3.00pm & FRI 29 DEC at 7.30pm

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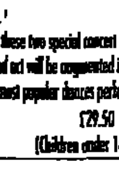

Dennis O'Neill as Eisenstein & Frosch
Robert Tear Eisenstein Amanda Thane Rosalinde
Judith Howarth Adele
Bonaventura Bottone Alfred Claire Powell Prince Orlofsky
William Dazeley Dr. Falke Nicholas Folwell Col. Frank
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In these two special concert performances, sung in English, the party scene in the second act will be augmented in the traditional manner with some of Johann Strauss's most popular dances performed in period costume by the Strauss Dancers.

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BACH Brandenburg Concerto No.4; *Magnificat*
STRAVINSKY Canticum Sacrum
STRAVINSKY Choral Variations on *Vom Himmel Hoch*

FRIDAY 1 DEC, 7.30pm
BACH Brandenburg Concerto No.3
BACH Motet *Singet dem Herrn*; Mass in G
STRAVINSKY Dumbarton Oaks; Concerto in D

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Supported by Foundation for Sport and the Arts

St. John's, Smith Square **Wed 22 Nov at 7.30pm**

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Director
William Lyne MBE

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Mailing List

LONDON

Sat 18 Nov 7.30pm	THOMAS RIEBL viola; JEAN RIGBY mezzo soprano SUSAN TOMES piano. Hindemith: Solo Sonata Op.31 No.4; Sonata Op.11 No.4; Brahms: Scherzo from FAE Sonata; 2 Songs with Viola; Music by Britten & Bischof £14, £12, £9, £6 *11am & 2.30pm: Masterclasses; 6pm: Pre-concert talk*
Sun 19 Nov 11.30am NB: time	CHILINGIRIAN QUARTET Coffee Concert NOBUKO IMAI viola Mendelssohn: String Quartet in F minor Op.80 Brahms: String Quintet in G Op.111 ALL SEATS SOLD (returns only) Wigmore Hall
Sun 19 Nov 5.00pm NB: time	KIM KASHKASHIAN viola Hindemith Viola Festival PETER NAGY piano. Hindemith: Sonata Op. 25 No.4; Solo Sonata Op.11 No.5; Michael Nyman: Viola & Piano (1995) (world prem); Kurtág: *Miniaturen*; Brahms: Sonata Op.120 No.2 £14, £12, £9, £6 *2.30pm: Masterclass* Wigmore Hall
Mon 20 Nov 7.30pm	PRIYA MITCHELL violin ANDREW WEST piano Beethoven: Sonata in F Op.24 *Spring*; Schumann: Sonata No.1 in A minor Op.105; César Franck: Sonata in A (1886) £10, £8, £6, £4 Young Concert Artists Trust
Tues 21 Nov 7.30pm	BRIAN ASAWA countertenor Early Music & Baroque Series MELVYN TAN fortepiano. Purcell: Songs & Arias; Scarlatti: 3 Songs; Mozart: Arias from *Nozze di Figaro* etc; Schubert: 5 Songs; Jake Heggie: Song Cycle *Encountertenor* (world prem) £15.00, £12.50, £10.00, £7.50 Lies Askonas Ltd
Wed 22 Nov 6.00pm NB: time	Ciaron McFadden sop; Julius Drake pno Rush-Hour Concert Jamie MacDougall ten. Britten: Appalachian Folksong: If thou wilt ease mine heart; Wild with passion; Cradle Song: Who are these Children?; Folksongs; Copland: 4 Poems of Emily Dickinson; Old American Songs; Bernstein: La bonne cuisine £7
Wed 22 Nov 8.00pm NB: time	ANTHONY ROLFE JOHNSON tenor The Britten Songs GRAHAM JOHNSON piano. Britten: 7 Sonnets of Michelangelo Op.22; 6 Hölderlin Fragments; Schumann: Dichterliebe Op.48 Supported by The Britten Estate Ltd & BBC Radio 3 ALL SEATS SOLD (returns only) Wigmore Hall
Thurs 23 Nov 7.30pm	TAKACS QUARTET Chamber Music Season The Bartók String Quartets I: Quartet No.1 Op.7; Quartet No.3 (1927); Quartet No.5 (1934) A Royal Philharmonic Society Concert presented in association with Wigmore Hall £15.00, £12.50, £10.00, £7.50
Fri 24 Nov 7.30pm	DAVIDE FRANCESCHETTI piano, Winner 1994 GPA Dublin International Piano Competition. Schumann: 3 Fantasiestücke Op111; Brahms: Variations on a Theme of Paganini Bks I & II; Musorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition £10, £8, £6, £4 Guardian Dublin International Piano Competition
Sat 25 Nov 5.00pm NB: time	1995 Cardiff Singer of the World Song Recital Series KATARINA KARNEUS mezzo soprano IAIN BURNSIDE piano Songs by Fauré, Bizet, Granados and Poulenc ALL SEATS SOLD (returns only) Wigmore Hall/BBC Radio 3
Sat 25 Nov 7.30pm	TAKACS QUARTET Chamber Music Season The Bartók String Quartets II: Quartet No.2 (1915-17); Quartet No.4 (1928); Quartet No.6 (1939) A Royal Philharmonic Society Concert presented in association with Wigmore Hall £15.00, £12.50, £10.00, £7.50

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Wren Orchestra of London
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THEATRES

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THEATRE TOKENS

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HAHN Exhibition of paintings by **ROSITA MARLBOROUGH.** 10-30 November 47 Albemarle Street London W1X 3FE. 0171-493 9196

HUNTING ART PRIZES This prestigious £20,500 Art Competition is still open for entries. London Handing in 1-3 December at the Royal College of Art. For full details send a large SAE to **Parker Harris & Co.** PO Box 1390, London SW8 1QZ. Tel. (01372) 462190

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EVENTS

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TOYS from the PAST, make PRESENTS of the FUTURE...... at the Kempton Park Racecourse, Grand Exhibition Hall, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex on SUNDAY 26th NOV. 11am until 4.30pm Bring all the family for a FAB FUNDAY! Everything from pocket money to expensive tinplate, on 200 stalls DINKY-CORGI-SCI-FI- DOLLS-TEDS-GAMES-TRUCKS- YANK TANKS-MILITARY-ACTION MAN-STAR WARS- STAR TREK- PLUS FREE DRAW with this ad - for a WESTERN MODELS BOEING STRATOCRUISER! BE THERE - OR BE SQUARE!

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OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** Ton't 7.30 **BARBER OF SEVILLE**

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets available on the day **The Royal Opera** Ton't 7.00 (First Night), Tue, Fri 7.30 **FEDORA** Mon, Wed 7.00 **MATHIS DER MALER** **The Royal Ballet** Thur 7.30 (First Night) Balanchine's **APOLLO/MacMillan's SIDE SHOW/Balanchine's DUO CONCERTANT/Page's FEARFUL SYMMETRIES**

THEATRES

ADELPHI "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal **SUNSET BOULEVARD** Winner of 7 Tony Awards including **BEST MUSICAL** Starring **ELAINE PAIGE** 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 0171 344 0055 (bkg fee) GRP BOOKING 413 3302 (bkg fee) No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers Recorded information 0171 379 8884 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALBERY BO 0171 369 1730 cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Grp 0171 413 3311 **"FIVE STAR SHOW ...IRRESISTIBLE"** D.Exp **FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE** SIXTH STOMPING YEAR Mon-Thu 8pm Fri & Sat 6 & 8.45 Fri & Sat 6pm perf top 4 prices 2 for 1

ALDWYCH cc 0171 416 6003 0171 420 0000 (no fee) Evgs 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.0 **NIAMH CUSACK MARGARET TYZACK PAUL BHATTACHARJEE** **INDIAN INK** "TOM STOPPARD'S TRIUMPH - A BEAUTIFUL AND FUNNY FIREBALL OF A PLAY TO ILLUMINATE THE WEST END" Today. Directed by **PETER WOOD** LAST 8 WEEKS ENDS JAN 6

AMBASSADORS 0171 836 6111/ 420 0100 (no bkg fee) 'NEW PLAY OF THE YEAR' D.Mail **BURNING BLUE** Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 **LAST 3 WEEKS** Ends 2 December

APOLLO 494 5068/344 4444/420 0000 **HAYLEY MILLS** "Magnificent" F.T. **JENNY SEAGROVE** "Impeccable" Times **DEAD GUILTY** 'Richard Harris' new play is **'THE PERFECT THRILLER'** S Times Mon-Fri 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 & 8.15

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 **Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of** **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE B/O C.C 0171 388 8822 From Dec 18 Mon-Fri 11.30 & 3.00 W/C Dec 25 Tue-Sat 11.30 & 3.00 **SOOTY AT CHRISTMAS**

FORTUNE 0171 836 2238 From 13 Dec, A Magical Xmas Show **THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP** "A real treat for 3-9 year olds" Gdn

CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454 **FAME THE MUSICAL** "FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday "BREATHTAKING" Independent Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL London City Ballet 17-18 Nov **GALA PROGRAMME** A Celebration of Classical Ballet **MINERVA STUDIO THEATRE** Sat 18 Nov Gandini Juggling project **AND OTHER CURIOUS QUESTIONS** Dance/Circus double bill with **MOMENTARY FUSION AERIAL DANCE** BOOK ON 01243 781312

COMEDY 0171 369 1731 inc cc no bkg fee cc 0171 344 4444 no bkg fee **HAROLD PINTER** "brilliant comedy performance" S.Tel **THE HOTHOUSE** by Harold Pinter "David Jones's fine production" F.T "lethally funny" Guardian "A HOOT AND A SENSATION...DON'T MISS" Obs Eves 7.45 Mats Thur 3.00 & Sat 4.00 **LAST 3 WEEKS**

COMEDY BO & cc 0171 369 1731 cc 0171 420 0000 (no bkg fee) **ZOE WANAMAKER in THE GLASS MENAGERIE** by **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS** Directed by **Sam Mendes** FROM 7 DEC BOOK NOW

CRITERION 369 1747 cc (no bkg fee) 0171 344 4444 **DANIEL MASSEY** **MICHAEL PENNINGTON** "two compelling leading performances...a tremendous play, tremendously performed" D Tel **TAKING SIDES** "a masterpiece" Mail On Sunday by Ronald Harwood "scrupulously well-directed by Harold Pinter" Observer Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 **LAST 4 WEEKS MUST END 9 DEC**

DOMINION Ticketlines 0171 416 6060/ 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321/420 0200 **GREASE** Starring **SHANE RICHIE** and **SAMANTHA JANUS** "Fast, furious & fun, fun, fun." Daily Mirror Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm **Nov 28, 29, 30 the role of Danny will be played by Richard Calkin TICKETS AVAILABLE - APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE THERE WILL BE NO PERFORMANCES OF GREASE UNTIL 27 NOV DUE TO ROYAL VARIETY PERFORMANCE**

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000 **MISS SAIGON** "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" NOW IN ITS 7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR! Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS 0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS cc 0171 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/836 2428 (bkg fee) 0171-413 3321 Eves 8pm. Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30 "A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std NOW IN ITS 5th YEAR **DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER** "Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S 0171 836 5122/9837 730 1745 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (24 hrs, no fee) **ROYAL COURT CLASSICS** 'An event before it even begins' Ind on Sun Ron Hutchinson's **RAT IN THE SKULL** 'A MODERN CLASSIC' D. Tel Directed by Stephen Daldry **FOR 2 PERFS ONLY** Eves 7.30pm Mats Thur & Sat 3pm From 24 November Terry Johnson's **HYSTERIA OLIVIER BEST COMEDY**

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/0171 312 8033 **DAVID BURKE** **ANDREW HAVILL** Susan Hill's **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "A real thrill of horror" S.Times NOW IN ITS 7TH YEAR Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm

FORTUNE B.O & CC 0171 836 2238 "One of the finest performances on the West End stage" What's On **MARIE** "A breath of fresh air" Times EVERY SUNDAY 3.30pm

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/ 0171 312 1990 (no bkg fee) **WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS The Royal National Theatre production** JB Priestley's **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** "THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D.Mail "ONE OF THE MOST INTOXICATING, THEATRICALLY IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCES OF THE 1990S" E.S **FINAL LONDON SEASON** Mon-Fri 7.45 Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 CC 0171 344 4444 Until 16 Dec **EDDIE IZZARD** 'A COMIC EMPEROR' The Obs 'TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS OF SHEER COMIC JOY' D.Tel 15/10/95 Tues Sat 8pm & **Sun 7.30pm**

GIELGUD Shaftesbury Ave inc cc 0171 494 5530 (no bkg fee) cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454 **JULIA McKENZIE COMMUNICATING DOORS** by **ALAN AYCKBOURN** "A MELODRAMATIC COMEDY THRILLER WONDERFULLY FUNNY AND GENUINELY SCARY" D Tel "with the audience in turn ROARING WITH LAUGHTER AND LEAPING FORWARD IN FRIGHT" Independent Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

HAYMARKET 930 8800 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) THE PETER HALL COMPANY **ALAN BATES** 'superb' Times **GEMMA JONES** 'marvellous' Gdn **THE MASTER BUILDER** 'Peter Hall's fine new staging' D.Tel 'A classic, rebuilt by a master' Today **FOR 6 WEEKS ONLY** Mon-Sat 7.45. Mats Wed, Sat 3pm

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/930 6123 **ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL** **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Directed by **HAROLD PRINCE** **NOW BKG TO 28 SEPT 96** Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Appl, to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3321 **JIM DALE** RETURNS TO THE WEST END **"A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT"** Daily Mail **OLIVER!** 'LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE' S.Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 **SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS**

LYRIC Shafts Ave BO/cc 0171 494 5045 cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) **LEO McKERN** "a comic tour de force" D Tel **NICHOLA McAULIFFE** "born to play Maggie" Today **GRAHAM TURNER** "gloriously funny" D.Mail **HOBSON'S CHOICE** by Harold Brighouse Directed by Frank Hauser "a magnificent hit" D.Tel Eves 7.30 Mat Sat 3.00 **EXTENDED TO 3 FEB**

MERMAID 236 2211 cc 344 4444 **JANET McTEER** **BARBARA FLYNN** **VIVAT! VIVAT REGINA!** by ROBERT BOLT 'a knockout of an evening' Today Eves 7.30,Mats Wed Thu 2.00,Sat 3.00 **FROM 30 NOV Roy Marsden in TREASURE ISLAND**

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 0171 344 4444 (24hr/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 413 3321 **TOMMY** SEE IT...HEAR IT...FEEL IT Previews 20 February Opens 5 March

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252 Grps 0171 620 0741,24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 **OLIVIER** Today 2.00 & 7.15 **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC** Music & lyrics by Stephen Soundheim, book by Hugh Wheeler Mon 7.15 **VOLPONE** Ben Jonson **LYTTELTON** Today 2.15 & 7.30, Mon 7.30 **WILD OATS** John O'Keeffe **COTTESLOE** Today 1.00 & 7.00, Mon 7.00 **RICHARD II** William Shakespeare

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/930 6123 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL **CATS** Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 **LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.**

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616/420 0000 MUST END TON'T **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST** by OSCAR WILDE "A wonderful night out" D.Tel "Elegant & effervescent" S Times "Barbara Leigh-Hunt is the star-turn in a crack company" I.o.S. "An evening of sheer happiness" Eve Std Directed by **TERRY HANDS** Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

OLD VIC 0171 928 6655/312 8034 The **Royal National Theatre's** **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** Classic Christmas Entertainment For Adults and Children alike "Alan Bennett has served up Grahame's creatures in lashings of his own wicked sauce... **GLORIOUSLY WITTY**" Ind Opens 25 Nov for a Ltd Season BOOK NOW

PALACE THEATRE 0171 434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 Grps 0171 413 3311 **THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL** **LES MISERABLES** **NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR** Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) **BEST MUSICAL ALL 4 MAJOR AWARDS WILLY RUSSELL'S** **BLOOD BROTHERS** **STEPHANIE LAWRENCE STEFAN DENNIS CARL WAYNE** ...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 cc 24hrs 344 4444, Grps 312 1970/413 3321 'SIT BACK AND JUST TAP YOUR TROUBLES AWAY!' Eve Stand. "ONE OF THE BEST MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS LONDON HAS SEEN FOR YEARS" D.Express "JERRY HERMAN'S WONDERFUL BURST OF MUSICAL FIREWORKS" D.Mail **MACK & MABEL** Mon-Sat at 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat at 3.00

PLAYHOUSE 0171 839 4401 /0171 420 0000/0171 344 4444 **AN ALL STAR CAST IN RAY COONEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT** **FUNNY MONEY** "LAUGHS GALORE...A WINNER" D. Exp "Better than Feydeau...priceless" D. Tel "It deserves to Run For Your Wife, oops, run & run" D. Mail Mon-Sat 8.00, Mats Thu 3.00, Sat 5.00 **THEATRE RESTAURANT 0171 930 9445**

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 734 8951 cc (24hr no bkg fee) First Call 420 0100 / 0171 344 4444 Groups 930 6123 **BEST MUSICAL Laurence Olivier Awards 93** 'YOU'D BE CRAZY TO MISS IT' D.Mail **CRAZY FOR YOU** "IS A GREAT, GLORIOUS, GLAMOROUS GOLDMINE OF A SHOW" S Times Eves 7.45, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00 **GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK**

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5972/420 0232/344 4444/416 6052 Grps 0171 420 0200/413 3321 **TOMMY STEELE WHAT A SHOW** 'Tommy's Show packs Flash, Bang, Wallop' Eve Standard Evgs Mon-Sat 8pm, Mats Wed 3pm Sat 5pm **For a Limited Season**

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 (24hr Bkg fee) 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 Cameron Mackintosh presents **MARTIN GUERRE** A New Musical by BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG **FROM 22 MAY 1996**

QUEENS BO/CC (£1 bkg fee) 0171 494 5040/344 4444 **LILY SAVAGE PRISONER CELL-BLOCK H THE MUSICAL** "Hilarious" F.T. "A cross between The Rocky Horror Show and Acorn Antiques" D.Tel "A Huge Hit" Obs **9 WEEKS ONLY!** Mon-Thu 8, Fri & Sat 6pm & 8.45

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 (no bkg fee) 0171 497 9977 (bkg fee) Groups 0171 312 1994 (no bkg fee) Eves 8, Tues 2.45, Sat 5 & 8 43rd Year of Agatha Christie's **THE MOUSETRAP**

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THEATRES

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (0171 638 8891) **For full details dial from your fax machine, 0336 418071** calls cost per min. 39p cheap rate, 49p at all other times BARBICAN **A PATRIOT FOR ME** Today 2.00 & 7.15 THE PIT **SON OF MAN** Today 2.00 & 7.15 **STRATFORD** (01789 295623) RST. **JULIUS CAESAR** Today 1.30 & 7.30 SWAN **THE CHERRY ORCHARD** Today 1.30 & 7.30 TOP. **THE PAINTER OF DISHONOUR** Ton't 7.30

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■ ON MONDAY

The Purcell tercentenary celebrations reach their climax with a weekend of opera

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

JULIAN JOSEPH

Profession: Jazz pianist and composer.

Age: 29

Star player: Joseph is big news. He had his own Julian Joseph Weekend at the Barbican Centre and made his Proms debut this year. He leads his own trio, quartet, eight-piece Forum Project and Big Band, concentrating on his compositions, which blend jazz with classical influences.

Rapid rise to glory: He was playing with major names in British jazz even before he won a scholarship to Boston's Berklee School of Music. There he got a call from Branford Marsalis: he was to get on a plane and come and play. He toured America with Marsalis, and Japan with Courtney Pine.

Forthcoming: Joseph will be playing in London on Thursday for the St Ceciliatide Festival in Stationers' Hall. Next year he will be working with the London Symphony Orchestra, releasing a new recording, *Universal Traveller*, and touring Europe and America. Following on from his albums *The Language of Truth* and *Reality*, *Universal Traveller* explores American jazz traditions and West Indian influences.

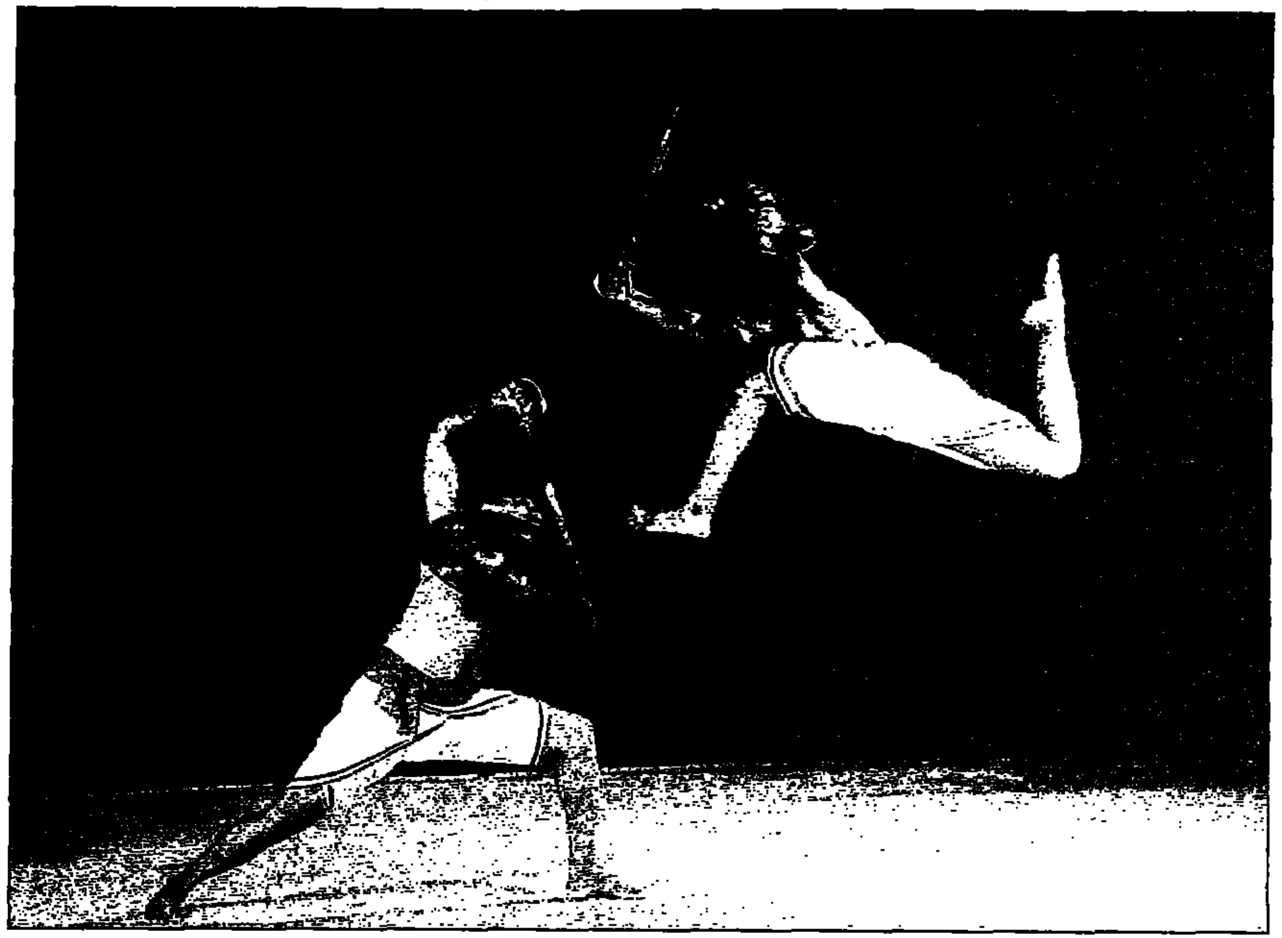
Family history: His father, an architect, was an R & B singer in the 1960s. His mother, an accountant also from the West Indies, got her three sons learning the piano and the history of Western music. The boys saved their bus money to buy jazz records and Joseph played jazz with his school teachers. His grandfather played the trumpet with Duke Ellington. Joseph believes that his great uncle was Harvard's first black professor, teaching music, and that he died, mysteriously, from poisoning. Joseph still lives at home in Wandsworth, south London.

On his music: "I'm not trying to fuse musics," Joseph says, "but to build my own identity by absorbing all types. I'm trying to get my music to be more episodic, to go through mood changes and control nuances." The British jazz scene, to which Joseph deliberately returned, "had incredible potential a few years ago. The exchange of ideas has dissipated but I'm still keen to find young musicians. Ideally, I'd like to develop a trio sound, gradually working up to the orchestral. My ultimate aim is to create music that has intellect and immediacy, is worthy of being alongside a symphony, can take Indian ideas or British folk and make it all swing."

KATE BASSETT

Next week, actors can learn from oriental martial arts how to dominate a stage, says **Kenneth Rea**

A belly full of fire



At the sharp end: Sathyanarayanan Troupe, India's leading exponents of *kalarippayattu*, leap into action

The way to an audience's heart lies through the actor's belly. This is a message that 20 martial arts masters and movement experts from around the world are trying to get across during the next two weeks in a series of groundbreaking workshops in London under the title *The Performer's Energy*. It is the first time in Britain that the relation between theatre and the martial arts has been seriously examined. More than 200 actors and dancers are expected to take part.

"We're looking at two questions," says Dick McCaw, director of the International Workshop Festival. "How is it that we notice certain people on stage and not others? And what kind of discipline is it that gives actors and dancers stage presence?"

Presence is that elusive quality that any politician would be only too glad to possess. But for actors and dancers it is the Holy Grail. Without presence you cannot fill the stage, you cannot generate real energy, you cannot galvanise an audience.

To prove that this energy can be sensed by audiences, there are two performance programmes: Body, Breath and Blade at the Purcell Room (Thursday and Friday) and Dance Rites at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (Saturday), which demonstrate the techniques, including *chi kung*, *t'ai chi*, *aikido*, *kalarippayattu*, *capoiera*, *Noh* and *Kathakali*.

Most people believe that presence is something you need to be born with. McCaw's festival attempts to show how it can be acquired. But why should martial arts have the answers? The reason lies in the East, where all the great theatre traditions — *kabuki*, *Noh*, *Kathakali* and the Peking Opera — have for centuries been linked to martial arts systems. These have provided the basis for the physical training of the actor and dancer.

The European theatre tradition has lacked a coherent system of physical training. Actors would traditionally dabble in deportment, fencing and ballet, but as for understanding the mysteries of their energy, that was left to experience and chance. The experimental movements of the 20th century have changed all that and the modern theatre has had to reinvent a physical training language. And where has it looked for inspiration? Why, to the East, of course.

At the heart of the matter are two concepts. Firstly, the Asians have long regarded the body as a field of energy which merges with the energy of the universe. In China this energy is called *chi* (the Japanese term is *ki*). When you know the techniques, you can draw it in and direct it outwards, for example towards an audience. Secondly, the body's centre of gravity, where this energy collects, is located just below the navel, which is why Buddha statues have such prominent bellies.

"Everyone has *chi*," says Lam Kam Chuen, who will teach and demonstrate the Chinese system of *chi kung*. "It's like water in a pipe — it's under pressure, and when you turn on the tap, it comes out. *Chi kung* is about strengthening *chi* and removing the blocks in your energy."

The powers of *chi* are legendary. Some *chi kung* masters can knock people over without even touching them. If this sounds far-fetched, consider the Shaolin monks who last week in London walked barefoot on knife blades, repelled spears pressed against their necks and broke iron bars over their heads — all with the power of *chi*.

Of course, British actors and dancers are not normally expected to perform such sensational feats. So are these energy forces really that useful on the West End stage?

Henry Smith, director of the American dance group Solaris, draws on nearly 20 years' study of Japanese martial arts to blend East and West. In his view, what martial arts such as *aikido* and *iaido* (a sword technique) can give any performer is the ability to be totally present in the moment.

"Most actors lack grounding," he says. "Their centres are very high. They're moving from the chest or the throat or the shoulders. And this looks very stiff. They don't seem to inhabit their own bodies. What I like to see is an actor really inhabit his or her body and then inhabit the space around them so it reaches out.

"It's the same with dancers. A dancer can take a form and do a nice shape, but the shape lacks inner force. If I push against that shape, it has no power to extend into the space. It's just a pretty shape. Artaud said that a gesture should cut through space and burn through time. That's what I think the martial arts can do. The gesture should resonate in the space. It should ripple through the audience."

The Indian equivalent of this energy is *prana*, and it will be demonstrated at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, first through *kalarippayattu*, the spectacular fighting art of Kerala in southwest India, and then through one of the most thrilling episodes in the *Kathakali* repertoire in which Bhima slays his opponent, splits open his chest, drinks his blood and hauls out the entrails, which he presents to his wife.

But how tangibly can this energy be felt by an audience? Smith is adamant that, although spectators may not be able to analyse it in terms of *chi* and *ki*, they can certainly feel presence. "People can see when you are in harmony with your surroundings. You are totally at one with yourself. And that's the warrior ideal."

Perhaps the real mystery is that a similar system of energy never existed in the West. The value of *The Performer's Energy* is that actors and dancers can finally test secrets that the Chinese and Japanese have known for more than a thousand years, and in the process, they might ensure that all eyes will be on them when next they walk onto a stage.

● *Information on the workshops from the International Workshop Festival, 0171-580 8825*

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An Oxford college's acceptance of cash in the name of a Nazi who used slave labourers is a mistake, says **Michael Pinto-Duschinsky**

Why honour a war criminal?

When the Fellows of Balliol College, Oxford, agreed to accept the newly endowed Flick Professorship in European Thought, they were not informed that the chair bore the name of a war criminal sentenced at Nuremberg.

In Nazi Germany, Friedrich Flick headed the largest privately controlled enterprise for the production of iron, steel and armaments. He was jailed in 1947 by the International Military Tribunal for involvement in organisations connected (in the words of the sentence) with "enslavement and deportation of slave labour" and with "murders, brutalities, atrocities and other inhuman acts committed principally by the SS".

Flick was one of the most prominent contributors to the Circle of Friends of Himmler. Some of the funds they gave to Himmler were then used — again according to testimony at Nuremburg — to finance the "academic" project of transporting 112 Jews from Auschwitz to Natzweiler so that they could be killed and stored in jars for ethnographic research.

Friedrich Flick denied during his trial any knowledge of such uses. He explained away his 1936 tour of Dachau concentration camp (with Heinrich Himmler himself acting as his guide) by saying that the conditions he witnessed were of people working "in large airy rooms" and with a canteen where "one could buy practically everything except alcohol" provided by a kitchen "like a kitchen in a large hotel with all installations".

Professor Wistrich records in *Who's Who in Nazi Germany* that "Flick's enterprises bought and used 40,000 slave labourers, 80 per cent of whom died". Flick resolutely refused to admit his responsibility or to compensate the victims. Luckily for him, the economic needs of the Cold War led to his release in 1950 from Landsberg Prison and to his rehabilitation as one of West Germany's most prominent industrialists. In 1972, he died, unrepentant and worth more than $1 billion. He had paid nothing to his victims. John McCloy, who as head of the US occupation authority in Germany had ordered Flick's release, appealed to Flick in vain to respond to the pleas of his victims.

In 1986, when the Flick family sold out some of their interests to the Deutschebank, it was finally agreed to give token compensation of DM5 million (equivalent to about £50 per slave labourer). As *The Times* of January 9, 1986, reported: "An explanation is ... that a new controversy about the lack of compensation threatened to damage the forthcoming flotation of shares ... especially among American investors."

To the Oxford University fundraisers the prime purpose was the need to attract donations. Moreover, they accepted the case that the Second World War happened a long time ago and that the main need now was for reconciliation. The issues raised certainly do not involve an implication of "guilt by descent" against the member of the Flick family who endowed the chair in his family's name. Yet, questions arise.

First, though it is possible to have endless metaphysical discussions about whether the money contributed is the same as that obtained during the war, the links are uncomfortably strong. Certainly, Friedrich and his descendants increased their fortune during and after the war. Equally, there is little question that profits from expropriations of Jewish property and from slave labour during the Nazi period were a major basis of the postwar Flick empire.

Secondly, extensive research has so far failed to reveal any compensation to the victims by members of the Flick family apart from the DM5 million mentioned earlier. There is a strong case that any charitable donations from Friedrich Flick's heirs should be directed to the company's former slave labourers and their families.

Thirdly, against this background, is it fitting to append the name of Flick to a professorship at Oxford, especially a chair devoted to European thought? It seems extraordinary that the fellows of Balliol were not informed. Some have made clear that they would have viewed the decision about accepting the chair differently had they known the background. Why, apparently, was there no meeting of the university's ethics committee, set up to discuss potentially controversial donations, before the contribution was accepted.

At present the university has no code governing its fundraising practices, and there is no bar, for instance, against accepting money based on the proceeds of slavery or other grossly immoral practices. Moreover, the ethics committee meets in secret, and as a "self-standing body" is not required to report to the congregation of dons. Safeguards and more accountable procedures are needed, if only to protect the interests of donors and to safeguard fundraising.

The pressure on universities to raise private funds has led to practices reminiscent of the sales of titles by Lloyd George. Oxford, which has created a new pageantry for the "Chancellor's Court of Benefactors", is not alone in devising honours and ceremonies for its large contributors. Universities need to take no less care than political parties when they approach potential donors.

There are still broader issues. One line of defence of the Flick chair has been that Oxford has become so heavily dependent on money from individuals and firms enriched by the Nazis that there would be a heavy price for taking a high moral tone. Certainly, the overlap between the list of contributors to the Circle of Friends of Himmler and to the Campaign for Oxford does not end with the name of Flick. Another Oxford contributor was the late Hermann Abs, the financier, who was on the board that provided the money for the Buna Works at Auschwitz. When Oxford accepted his contribution, he was on the US list of prohibited immigrants.

The danger of accepting a higher percentage of funds from foreign sources, especially to pay for the teaching of modern history and politics, is that course content can be a form of propaganda. This has happened at some universities.

There is the question of the corporate responsibility of German enterprises. A study by the former Nuremberg prosecutor, Benjamin Ferencz, has documented their generally miserly record of compensation to their wartime victims. Though the 1940s may seem a long time ago, the slave labourers — especially those surviving in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union — are often living in penury, having never recovered. Is it not the primary task of the corporations that ran the slave camps to compensate the slaves rather than to sponsor symphony orchestras and universities?

Finally, is the cause of reconciliation best served by naming a professorship after a war criminal? It would be more fitting to commemorate a German such as Adam von Trott zu Solz, a Balliol graduate executed for his resistance to Hitler or to establish a chair in the name of the victims of the Holocaust.

● *The writer is the author of* British Political Finance 1830-1980

Young people are at the mercy of an underworld trade in Ecstasy that the authorities cannot control

Were we to be taken on a tour of the teenage clubs of Manchester and Portsmouth, Brighton and Newcastle, Chelmsford and London, we would be terrified. Our instinct would be to ban them

Exposed to a free market too far

Simon Jenkins

Nobody can watch with equanimity a girl on the point of death. Any parent will have agonised this week alongside the distraught Paul and Jan Betts as they grieved in public over their daughter's plight. We all rage against such waste. We want redress against the Furies of Accident. We want the solace of someone to warn and someone to blame.

Any parent will also sympathise with the decision of Mr Betts, a former drugs-squad policeman, to use his girl's death as a plea to all parents and all children to avoid drugs. He and his wife made a courageous decision to display their anguish on television. The police want to find the pushers of the relevant batch of Ecstasy and publicity is their best ally.

No parent can now be ignorant of Ecstasy. The stimulant has been available on the black market since 1988. Like the Purple Hearts of the Sixties, drugs that keep people awake and "high" have always been popular. The Ecstasy phenomenon is not new nor is one tragedy likely to end it. As shocked reporters have found this week, few teenagers claim to be refusing pills because of Leah Betts's death.

Journalist parents of teenagers have rushed into autobiographical mode, confessing to this latest burden on their already bowed shoulders. As Valerie Grove said in this newspaper, how often does she see that note on the kitchen table: 'Gone to whirly, see you in morning. PS No E!' — and wondered why the PS was needed, or whether it was meant. Like many places frequented by teenagers, whirlies do not serve alcohol. They serve loud music and soft drinks and stay open all night. Such raves are (comparatively) sober. Proprietors prefer them to the nocturnal antics of alcoholic bars: furniture smashed, youths fighting and vomiting.

Pills are a popular way of getting through an evening since they are cheap, easy to get, and easy to consume. Young people are not completely stupid. When adults tell them that Ecstasy is in the same legal category as heroin, they react that the law is mad. (When adults declare that cannabis is as dangerous as crack cocaine, children wonder if adults are on the same planet.) Whatever triumphs stand to the credit of the criminal law, using it to control narcotics among the young is not one of them. The eight reported deaths a year attributable to Ecstasy, largely through heatstroke, must make it at least safer than alcohol poisoning, from which hundreds of young people die, unpublicised, each year.

The last Home Office survey suggested between a third and a half of all young people have used illegal drugs, mostly cannabis and pills. They cannot be stopped from congregating on their own, in clubs, discos, concerts, raves, even private parties in the houses of good people like the Betts. They take Ecstasy because they like it, perhaps even like the risk of a possible "bad trip". Few seem to react badly to it when it is pure, and they do not regard it as lethal. Bad publicity merely makes it seem attractive.

If my child said he was going to an E-rave, I would tell him not to. He should be able to enjoy himself without such stimulants. Ecstasy also happens to be illegal. There is a risk of arrest, albeit a mild one since the police have given up spitting in this wind. More serious is the risk of contamination and of allergic and other side-effects that may affect some children more than others (as an autopsy may prove with Leah Betts). Most of the Ecstasy taken by the million or so young Britons who consume it every week is believed to be impure or doctored. This is what makes it as dangerous as illicit gin in 18th-century London.

Of course any fool can "ban" drugs such as Ecstasy — if it makes them feel better. That will neither stop them nor even stem their use. It merely leaves them at the mercy of the unregulated and unscrupulous market. What it does make harder is the effort to control them, and above all control contamination. This seems to be peculiarly critical in the case of Ecstasy.

Pills must be the most uncertain of all narcotics. The consumer cannot be sure what is in that multi-coloured, variously shaped tablet or capsule. Since any laboratory caught making the drug in Britain is vulnerable to huge penalties, almost all Ecstasy sold here comes from Eastern Europe and Spain. The cross-border trade is unstoppable. Dogs cannot sniff pills. There are more than 200 recorded brands of Ecstasy, each a different mix of the basic ingredient, methylene-dioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA).

Private Dutch laboratories at present get government funds to test batches that come their way and put out public warnings of badly adulterated brands. Kits and mobile labs are even available for hire at parties and raves. A test on a batch takes a few minutes and costs £1. Young people queue up for the test and dealers have to be careful what they sell. No narcotic can be called safe, but Ecstasy-related deaths on the Continent are virtually unknown. This drugs market appears able to regulate itself.

British parents and children, by contrast, are left hopelessly at risk. What reaches Britain has either benefited from Dutch testing or, more likely, has failed it and been dumped. Dutch authorities are appalled at the British Government's laxity in simply ignoring the threat of contaminated drugs — or pretending that Customs or police officers can somehow cope. A Manchester drugs charity, Lifeline, recently tested 18 brands and found only four contained pure MDMA.

British parents must for the time being pray that Dutch laboratories keep up the good work and bear down on the dealers. Since Government policy is that all Ecstasy is equally bad, as a class-A drug, anything that might imply that some brands are worse than others is impermissible. No adult would tolerate this casual attitude to drugs they buy each day in the chemist. Yet they leave their children each night at the mercy of a market in pills that is unlicensed, untested, unchecked and uncontrolled. It is near unbelievable.

The reason is political cowardice. When Tony Blair earlier this month banned Clare Short from even discussing drugs, he indicated the panic that seems to overtake politicians in tackling this subject. It brings to the surface some deep tribal aversion. The popularity of Ecstasy may wane. It would be good if Leah Betts's death contributed to this. But history suggests that some other concoction will take its place. The true message of the Betts case is that such compounds must be properly controlled and this cannot be done when Government (and Opposition) pretends that banning them is enough. Banning has failed, as has that other panacea "drugs education". This is how young people will go on dying.

For most of us teenage life is a land of horrors. It is a territory inhabited by alienation, torment, sex and violence, a turbulent rite of passage to maturity. Were we to be taken on a tour of the teenage clubs of Manchester and Portsmouth, Brighton and Newcastle, Chelmsford and London, we would be terrified. Our instinct would be to ban them, or fill them with policemen, teachers, social workers, priests, or declare them vile and drag our children home screaming.

This is not on — or too much trouble. Instead we leave young people to entrepreneurs whom we refuse to regulate because that would mean accepting their existence. We are faced with Britain's biggest and most menacing free market. All we can do is pretend it is not there — and occasionally grieve with its victims.

Philip Howard

■ A sense of humour comes in handy when dealing with computers

The "Black Baron" has been jailed for creating a computer virus that raged through Cyberspace like contagious conjunctivitis, alias pink-eye, through junior school. His viruses, named Pathogen and Queeg, wiped data from computers, and signed off on screen with the message: "Smoke me a kipper. I'll be back for breakfast ... Unfortunately some of your data won't."

This story sends tremors down the typing fingers of those who only paddle by the shore of the Internet, and are stunned by the tidal wave of choices scrolling over the databanks. Abandon hope, all you who press ENTER here, if our work can be wiped by the noisome computer pestilence that surfeth by night.

The Internet is the greatest technico-intellectual revolution since Gutenberg. It is even more democratic than printing. There are nutters, bores, junk and evil in this new world. There are as many mistakes as ever, but now it is nobody's fault. Garbage in, garbage out. But this garbage, having been passed through a very expensive machine, is somehow purified and validated.

Computerspeak is creating the liveliest jargon on screen, with its viruses and antiviruses, crashes and hangings, and mice, which some of us treat as brutally as the farmer's wife. The language itself is being changed by the routines of writing on screen: shorter sentences, more logical arrangement, the ability to shift words and sentences about, and other ways that will emerge. Spellcheck ought to make typos as obsolete as the dittography of ancient scribes. But even the mightiest computer cannot think, and it allowed the press to declare that the victims of a ghastly murder trial were suffering from disillusion. No doubt they were, but what was meant was probably dissolution. By looking a word up in a dictionary rather than letting a machine spell, you may remember how to spell eschscholtzia, and learn something interesting about its roots.

Because Cyberspace is so vast, netiquette is introducing ways of distinguishing different registers and kinds of language. It has invented something language has needed since man started carving hieroglyphs: a way of showing that one is joking. Irony is banned from newspapers, because three-quarters of the readers take it at straight face value. To signal "this is a joke" on the Internet, using punctuation you tap in a smiling face lying on its left ear, like this: :-). This warns users to "not take what follows literally". Literary criticism and reading newspapers would be made easier: a typeface called Ironics, like italics but leaning backwards, has been suggested.

Recognising the tone of voice in a foxy writer can be tricky even for contemporaries. When the writer comes out of the past, from a different world, it can be inscrutable. On Thursday night the Flaccidae, fans of the poet Quintus Horatius Flaccus, spent an enjoyable three hours construing Horace's *Epistle XVII* from book I. In it the poet advises a younger friend on how to get on in life by sucking up to a patron. Was this a mission statement or irony?

A generation before Christ, the register of the poem would have been made clear by reading it out loud to an audience. Today we can only try to unpeel the layers of irony and reference as with an onion. Horace would no doubt have been good at the Internet, because he was clever, quick, and adaptable to new worlds. But he might have resisted signalling his ironies by :-) marks if they had been available. Ambiguity is the heart of great poetry. Software, however sophisticated, can never replace the flawed greyware of the poet.

THE TIMES DIARY

Hand of wad

DIEGO MARADONA, the barrel-chested footballer, cut a dash with a blond streak in his hair when in Oxford to speak at the Union this month. But it has emerged that this was not his only flirtation with fashion on his trip.

The day after his speech, he went on a shopping spree in London and spent £17,000 on clothes within half an hour. With him to witness the display were two Oxford undergraduates who had accompanied him to Stringfellows nightclub in the West End the previous evening where his dance step was said to be jerky.

The Argentinian's indulgence is the talk of Oxford and even of Cambridge students, whose threadbare uniform more commonly emerges from car boot sales than from the houses of *haute couture*. Matt Guy, president of the Union, says that Maradona took his two Union chaperones to Bond Street after their night on the town. "I am told he spent £17,000 in half an hour in Versace," he says.

Versace refused to confirm the sum but a spokesman admits that Maradona has visited the Bond Street store. Maradona is clearly shaping up for the forthcoming visit to Argentina of the Princess of Wales.

Leg before

SYMPATHY was in short supply from Ray Illingworth yesterday in South Africa when he encountered my colleague Alan Lee, *The Times* cricket correspondent, being treated by the England team physiotherapist after twisting his ankle. Speaking with his foot in ice, Alan explained: "Illingworth came in and said: 'I know what he's done. It's the lateral ligament. I did that at the Oval in '72. I couldn't bowl for three months and it cost us the Test. The ball was turning.'"

In tune

SUNDAY BED-LUBBERS will now be able to enjoy their cricket and their weekly dose of *The Archers*, without having to move a limb. For the first time during the cricket season, Radio 4 long wave listeners will be able to catch the tail-end of Britain's longest running Aga-saga tomorrow. Hitherto, cricket coverage on long wave meant the omnibus edition of *The Archers* was heard on FM only. But from tomorrow, long wave will broadcast the final 35 minutes of the omnibus, preceded by "the story so far" read by the actress Wendy Richard from *EastEnders* who, despite her urban leanings, is a committed member of Archers Addicts.

Road runner

DELIA SMITH may be in the ascendant but *The International Roadkill Cookbook* is coming up on the rails. A useful little reference volume available in paperback from London-based Airlift Publishing, it offers imaginative recipes for rabbits, all manner of fowl, deer and even frogs run over by vehicles.

Recipes include Windshield Rabbit (with tips on fashioning the fur into a hat); Bangered and Mashed (a dubious hedgehog dish); and Chicken Squashatore (self explanatory).

On the hop

INHABITANTS of the tiny village of Charlton Horethorne, in Somerset, are living in fear of a hop-along criminal. The close-knit community of just over 500 has fallen prey to 13 burglaries already this year, and the police insist the criminal has leg trouble. "We suspect that it is someone on crutches," says Sergeant Roger Blanthorne of Yeovil police.

The sergeant refuses to elaborate but there is talk of crutch prints being left at the scenes of the crimes. Neighbourhood Watch has called an emergency meeting for tomorrow and villagers are scouring their brains for sightings of invalids.

Baby talk

EVEN BEFORE she had got used to wearing her *shalwar kameez*, people were speculating that Jemima Goldsmith was pregnant. She tells a poignant little story in the December issue of *Vogue* about fainting in front of 200 guests at a party before the Pakistani wedding.

"I kept saying hello to little babies and I had a child on my lap, and suddenly I felt so hot, tired and overwhelmed that I stood up and promptly passed out," she writes. "Of course people immediately assumed that I was pregnant and instead of sympathy there were hearty congratulations."

Jemima: pregnant pause

● *Housewives besieged a drug helpline the other day in the mistaken belief that they might find some of Jane Asher's cake recipes. Switchboards at the Morphine Information Service were jammed after GMTV put out the wrong freephone number. Unless they were after hash cookies, they were told, they should try elsewhere.*

P·H·S

هكذا من الاصل

SCOTTISH SENSE

A welcome change of voice from the Prime Minister

The Tories in Scotland are in an even greater fix than they are in the rest of the country. North of the border, their opposition to devolution has compounded their general unpopularity: they are seen, rightly or wrongly, as "anti-Scotland". As a result, the Conservatives won just 25.7 per cent of the vote at the last general election, supported only by die-hard unionists. Subsequent local elections have wiped them off the map.

Now John Major has decided to address the Scottish problem. On November 30, neatly timed to steal thunder from the final conclusions of the Scottish constitutional convention, the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, will announce a shift in Conservative thinking. He has prepared an alternative form of devolution, based on a larger role for Scotland's MPs, who make up the Scottish Grand Committee. Scottish MPs would, under this plan, be given more say over the contents of purely Scottish legislation.

Even the tone of Tory pronouncements has changed. Yesterday, the Prime Minister described the constitutional convention set up by the opposition parties, as an "important event". Until now it had been dismissed as an irrelevance. And Mr Major claimed that he wanted the Scots, "who often feel cut off from parliamentary debate in London, to have better access to government". This is a welcome conversion from a Prime Minister who has never looked entirely comfortable rejecting the case for the Scottish people to have more say over their own affairs.

There remains, however, a tricky constitutional circle to square, and it is one that foxed Alec Douglas-Home when he was asked to address it in 1969. If the Scottish Grand Committee were allowed, say, to vote alone on purely Scottish Bills on their second reading, would Westminster be allowed to overturn its decisions on the third reading? If so, then the change could inflame more Scottish tempers than it would calm. If not, then the Committee would turn into the assembly that the Conservatives so deplore. And the so-called "West Lothian Question" would reassert itself.

Mr Major is right to concede that Scottish frustrations must be addressed. But in doing so, he has sacrificed a powerful shot in his political armoury. In the final week of the last general election, the Prime Minister argued passionately that Labour's proposals for devolution would split the Union apart. His case was that devolution was a slippery slope: the more power was devolved, the more the Scots would demand, until eventually they would be content with nothing less than independence. Others argue, of course, that the status quo presents more of a threat to the Union: devolution would pacify most of the population and the nationalists would be marginalised.

No one can be sure which of these analyses will be correct. But if Mr Major's argument was right before, it can be used against his own new proposals too. If they are thought to be inadequate, the Scots, or at least a good many Scots, will press for more. The Prime Minister's calculation must be that, however small the gesture, it will succeed in prising apart real opposition voters from those who merely vote Labour or Liberal Democrat because they dislike the Tories' attitude towards Scotland. There must have been more than a quarter of Scots at the last election who were natural Conservatives. This change of policy may allow them to vote Tory again with confidence.

NO GOVERNMENT TODAY

Washingtonians squabble while Perot senses his chance

If, as expected, President Clinton vetoes the Republicans' latest stop-gap spending plan, the biggest shutdown in the history of the federal Government looks set to continue indefinitely. To outsiders, the spectacle is absurd: the Government of the richest country in the world has run out of money. The Grand Canyon is shut, no passports are issued and no one is available to handle new applications for social security and Medicare.

Most Americans are also bemused. The ill-judged admission by Newt Gingrich, the Speaker, that he hardened his stance out of pique at not being treated with presidential respect on the plane to Israel has produced a nationwide guffaw of contempt.

For the Republican Congress and for President Clinton, however, there is more at stake than any appeal to common sense can resolve. The confrontation has been looming since last year's Republican triumph in the mid-term elections and the Gingrich proclamation of revolution. It has arrived in a head-to-head clash of ideologies which leaves neither side room to manoeuvre. Disappointed that the public is losing stomach for the radicalism of "Contract with America", Mr Gingrich and his crusaders cannot afford to compromise further. Their core commitment, the promise to balance the federal budget in seven years, is now under threat. If they retreat, the new Republican dawn darkens; if they hold firm, they risk temporary popular anger, but expect to earn national respect when the books are finally balanced.

For Mr Clinton, however, holding firm is also a matter of principle — the main one being to demonstrate that he does have principles. Events are now moving his way: the withdrawal of Colin Powell and the consequent shift in the electoral polls, the new sense of purpose over Bosnia, the continuing economic upturn, his moving tribute to Yitzhak Rabin — all these have won him new respect and authority. He has already begun to see the rewards: the Democrats held the state house in Virginia, denying the Republicans symbolic victory in the Democratic citadel of the old South.

In repositioning himself, however, Mr Clinton has been forced to steal many Republican clothes, and now needs to reassure Democrats worried about the theft. What better way to show that he is still the champion of the ordinary man and woman than to make a stand on health care for the old and benefits for the poor?

With the confrontation, the 1996 election has begun in earnest. Mr Gingrich is apparently relishing the fight, egged on by Republican freshmen whose zeal is not tempered by worries about re-election: this is their trial of fire. Unfortunately, they have got off to a poor start. Mr Gingrich's gaffe has been seen as small-minded petulance. The earlier attempt to attach extraneous preconditions to Bills to reopen the Government misfired. And Mr Clinton, echoing Ronald Reagan, is demanding only what the Contract with America proposed: a line-item veto. Public opinion, inasmuch as it really cares about the shutdown, is running strongly against Mr Gingrich and in the President's favour.

A compromise will have to be found. The shutdown is beginning to affect the ability to govern and make foreign policy. Mr Clinton can forgo his trip to Japan; he is reluctant to cancel the vote-rich visit to Ireland. Senator Dole, now the Republican front-runner, is happy to be seen in the company of conservatives, battling against the President. But he and Mr Gingrich know that the longer the farce goes on, the stronger the voters' temptation will be to turn to a maverick such as Ross Perot. That hurt the Republicans in 1992; it could hurt again next year.

ENNUI NOUVEAU

New World competition for the 'new' Beaujolais

Let us put our stereotypes and beer to one side, and be true to the Saturday morning hangover: we are really a nation of wine-drinkers. Our person-gallon rate is pretty impressive, and there is more. Nowhere else in the world do drinkers of wine enjoy such a delicious and ample choice. Absolutely nowhere else. And were it the house style of *The Times* to embolden the typeface for emphasis, we would do so here.

The British High Street is the envy of the wine-glugging world. On any one, in any city or town, a person can survey the widest range of magic in a corked bottle: Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand, so light and buttery and with not a trace of Waitangi; burly Tuscans, the Mike Tysons of the red wine world; Riojas from Spain, the only proper way to take one's vanilla; supple Rieslings from Washington state; Portuguese Vinho Verde, the colour of Isabelle Adjani's eyes; Californian Pinot Noir, Californian Zinfandel, Californian fizz.

But we do not wish they all could be Californian, for there are other lilting New World wines to pour into the British glass. Few have not drunk — and delighted in — a South Australian Cabernet Sauvignon, or even one from New South Wales. A Cape Pinotage is now passed even by the tsars of political correctness. Chilean Chardonnay is a reliable and much-loved pillar of so many working lunches.

Oh, don't go away, and don't put down that glass of Merlot from Mendoza . . . of course . . . we almost forgot: there are wines from France as well.

And yet . . . are there? We seem to be drinking less and less of them: even College High Tables and their oh-so-punctilious wine stewards are taking to other types. This has nothing to do with Muroroa Atoll, of course, and there is even a case for buying French to stand by *notre cher Jacques*. Instead, it has everything to do with such sturdy British concerns as value for money, rip-offs and consistency.

With such a wealth of Other Wine on high street shelves, French wines are being snubbed by drinkers who watch taste and wallet. And these Chardonnays-come-lately even have names that one can pronounce after a bottle or two — Pipers Brook, Edna Valley, Blackwood Canyon. There are still tongue-twisters such as the Chilean Errazuriz or the Australian Tarrawarra, but at least they twist the tongue affordably.

In keeping with this anti-French trend, Beaujolais Nouveau, so much a part of the winter calendar for some, has had a very flat week. There have been scarcely any cross-Channel dashes, and hardly any of the usual mad parties. It has been a better year than most, taste-wise, and our wine correspondent tells us that it is "a very good to excellent vintage". But the one thing it is not is New World. And that, it seems, is what the Old Country now prefers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Fairer tax basis for share options

From the Chief Executive of ProShare

Sir, Achieving wider share ownership has long been a stated aim of this Government. That is why the Chancellor's proposal in the summer, in the light of the Greenbury committee's report, to impose income tax on approved discretionary share options, was met with such disquiet (reports, July 17 and 18).

In the past week alone, over 50 British companies have contacted ProShare to reiterate their concerns. While we welcome the Chancellor's speedy decision to abandon income tax imposed retrospectively (report, July 28), further repair work is essential in the forthcoming Budget.

A recent ProShare survey of 275 companies found that most recipients of approved discretionary share options are basic-rate taxpayers. These are not fat cats.

Some 6,000 companies — more than twice as many as the number using alternative schemes — have used approved discretionary share option schemes to give employees the opportunity to participate in the long-term success of their company. It is no wonder that, over the past two months, leading industrialists and MPs of all parties have been beating a path to the Chancellor's door.

Solutions suggested by organisations such as the Institute of Directors, the City Group for Smaller Companies and the Campaign for Share Options all run along similar lines. Capital gains tax treatment should be restored where modest amounts of share options are exercised on an annual basis. Income tax should be payable on larger exercises, with all tax liabilities deferred until after shares have been sold.

This would not only discourage excessive share deals for high earners, as the Greenbury committee intended, but would also enable discretionary share options to continue to be used to broaden share ownership amongst those on lower and middle incomes.

Yours faithfully,
GILL NOTT,
Chief Executive,
ProShare (UK) Ltd,
Library Chambers,
13-14 Basinghall Street, EC2.
November 16.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Bard in the Dail

From Ms Mary O'Rourke, TD

Sir, You will be glad to know ("The Prince's choice", leading article, November 3) that Shakespeare is in regular use in Dail Eireann, particularly when the underlying mood is a little sombre.

On February 6, 1992, just before the Taoiseach, Charles Haughey, retired as Fianna Fail leader, he quipped à propos a member quietly leaving the chamber after being expelled from a sitting for being disorderly: "I am tempted to say something about 'when beggars die, there are no comets seen'. If Deputies want me to finish the quotation, it is 'the Heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes' ".

A Carlow teacher, Deputy Browne of Fine Gael, flashed back: "Now cracks a noble heart. Good-night sweet prince. And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest." At the next session, on February 11, announcing his resignation, Mr Haughey quoted with great dignity Othello: "I have done the State some service, they know't; No more of that."

Yours sincerely,
MARY O'ROURKE
(Deputy Leader, Fianna Fail),
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.
November 14.

Riyadh bomb blast

From the Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Sir, The unsubstantiated allegations in your report today that Iran was behind the bomb blast in the Saudi Arabian capital on November 13 are preposterous.

The nation and Government of Iran have themselves been victims of terrorism many times. They understand the pain and suffering it causes, and the Government condemns terrorism in any form. It has frequently declared that it is ready to co-operate in an international campaign against terrorism of all sorts.

Yours faithfully,
MOHAMMAD SAFAEI,
Deputy Head of Mission,
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
16 Prince's Gate, SW7.
November 14.

Honour in store?

From Mr Arthur G. Cole

Sir, May I express the hope that the long overdue knighthood which you bestowed on Denis Compton in today's Diary, will be confirmed at the next honours list.

Yours sincerely,
ARTHUR G. COLE,
97 Regent Road,
Brightlingsea, Colchester, Essex.
November 11.

The Princess of Wales's broadcast

From Mrs Eileen H. Armstrong

Sir, Congratulations to Libby Purves on her article, "Let's hear what Diana has to say" (November 16).

Why should the Princess of Wales not be given the opportunity to tell her side of what must have been a sad and disillusioning experience? From the pain of a shattered marriage she has emerged as a mature and caring woman who in all fairness should be given the chance to use the same means as her husband to communicate her story.

Yours faithfully,
EILEEN H. ARMSTRONG,
7 Long Compton Drive,
Hagley, Stourbridge, Worcestershire.
November 17.

From Mr John Raybould

Sir, BBC Worldwide, the Corporation's commercial arm, says that it has been "inundated with calls from around the world" for TV rights for Princess Diana's hour-long *Panorama* interview (report, November 16). If huge international sales do result, then obviously the Princess should be immediately nominated for the Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN RAYBOULD,
The Old Vicarage, High Street,
Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex.
November 16.

From Mr Brian Clarke

Sir, The BBC seems to have forgotten that it is a public body. I am dismayed that it should be so triumphant about its success in selling to every major broadcaster in the world the fruits of its rummaging in the personal life and distress of a member of the Royal Family.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN CLARKE,
38 Wingate Road, W6.
November 15.

From Mr S. M. Grant

Sir, I have no interest in what the Princess of Wales may have to say in the *Panorama* interview on Monday and will certainly not be among those watching the programme.

I am, however, extremely interested in Sir David Money-Coutts's suggestion (letter, November 16) that Palace permission is in some way a determinant of what is or is not a proper exercise of free speech. Since when?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN GRANT,
2 Beechwood Close,
Battledown,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
November 16.

From Mr P. M. B. Savage

Sir, What must those two young boys be going through, as they wait for that broadcast? All my life I was a schoolmaster in a boys' boarding school, and I cannot help worrying. Has their mother not thought of that?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK SAVAGE,
Aynhoe Park,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.
November 16.

Taking the blame for spread of BSE

From Mr Carl A. Middleditch

Sir, How typical of the Minister of Agriculture, Douglas Hogg, to blame everyone but his own department for the problems arising from BSE (reports, November 10, 13, 14).

The blind adherence of this Government to the dictates of Brussels, when no other member state attempts to do so, has ruined the British meat industry. Many farmers, abattoirs and butchers are being ruined by the rising costs of ante-mortem, post-mortem and meat-inspection charges.

Mr Hogg blames the abattoirs for allowing BSE into the food chain, yet ignores the fact that the disease developed from a ministry-approved animal-feed concentrate. He also ignores the fact that his own meat inspection service has a duty to the general public to inspect diligently each and every animal carcass before it is approved for human consumption.

The problems are not those of the farmers, slaughtermen and butchers alone. The Government, through its meat inspectors, also has a job to do.

Yours faithfully,
CARL A. MIDDLEDITCH,
The Bungalow, Stud Farm, East End,
Adderbury, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

From Sir Julian Rose

Sir, It is very disquieting to learn that some abattoirs are failing to remove spinal cord from cattle carcasses as a primary preventative step in the control of BSE, and that scientists are publicly stating their concern.

However, should farmers and abattoirs have to pay the full cost for the removal and disposal of this potentially offensive material?

Both have already borne the brunt of some extremely demanding health and hygiene laws, leading to many smaller abattoirs being forced into bankruptcy and farmers having to haul their animals increasing distances to find suitable alternatives.

It is surely also wrong to tar all cattle-farming enterprises with the same brush. No dairy or beef cattle born and raised on registered organic farms have ever been affected by BSE — and the public needs to know this.

Organic farmers have already paid a financial price for the extra caution demanded in raising and nurturing their animals on proper diets and low-stress systems. Should they now have to foot the bill for the indefensible symptoms of factory farming? Or will government finally admit some responsibility for having encouraged, for too long, production methods that fail to respect the basic laws of nature?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN ROSE,
Hardwick Estate Office,
Hardwick House,
Whitchurch, Reading, Berkshire.
November 14.

Assisted places

From the Headmaster of The London Oratory School

Sir, I am sorry that the Headmaster of Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby (letter, November 16), thought it appropriate to support his case for the assisted places scheme by reference to Mr Tony Blair's decision to send his son to The London Oratory School. His description of the school as "comprehensive in name alone" is ill-informed and uncalled for.

He seems to have fallen into the trap of assuming that a school which has high standards and whose pupils achieve good results in public examination and take a high number of university places cannot be a comprehensive school. We draw our pupils across the full range of ability and from a very broad social background.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN McINTOSH,
Headmaster,
The London Oratory School,
Seagrave Road, SW6.
November 16.

Bankside Tate

From Mr Peter R. Fyson

Sir, How refreshing to read Mr Gideon Nellen's letter on plans to turn Bankside power station into an art gallery (November 13). Southwark certainly deserves something better.

Conversion, compared with new construction, is almost always more expensive, whatever the project. Surely a new gallery, designed for its purpose, would more excitingly uplift Bankside, instead of stripping this gloomy mausoleum of coal-fired electricity generation of its industrial interior and rebuilding at enormous cost.

Demolition by controlled explosive detonation has long been an acceptable and safe technique; it would drop Bankside power station within its curtilage. The Tate Gallery once presented an arrangement of bricks as art; here is an opportunity for artistic creation on a heroic scale.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FYSON,
13 Ives Street, SW3.

School's closure

From Mr Christopher McCall, QC

Sir, Charity is nothing if we cannot feel confidence that what is given will be protected for the public good. The Charity Commissioners, who must ensure that such confidence is justified, have a task of enormous responsibility.

It is therefore hard to allow the criticism of the commissioners which underlay the article (Education, November 10) by the former headmaster of the Vale School to go unanswered; for criticism so plainly misconceived is itself only too likely to subvert public confidence in the workings of charity.

That a headmaster should feel anger at the closure of a school to which he and doubtless many others had committed their energies is understandable, but surely not the suggestion that the commissioners should have allowed the school to be sold for £100,000 less than the valuation put before them, merely because a prospective purchaser, hoping to carry on the school for profit, did not feel able to pay the full price. Is it not a primary function of the commissioners to ensure that charity property is not diverted to private gain?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER McCALL,
13 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
November 10.

A watchful eye

From Mr Michael Waby

Sir, Libby Purves ("Tory ambulance chasers", November 14) writes on the need for effective controls on home videos to protect young children. Have not such "controls" existed for quite some time — in the form of parents?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WABY,
2 Lambourn Chase,
Radlett, Hertfordshire.
November 14.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

A Jane Austen property puzzle

From Baroness James of Holland Park

Sir, One of my readers, with a touching faith in the ability of detective novelists to solve puzzles, has written to me with a question about *Pride and Prejudice* which I am certainly not competent to answer. If, in default of a male heir, the Longbourn estate is entailed on Mr Collins, why is his name not Bennet?

I have inquired of friends more knowledgeable than I who point out that an entail does not necessarily bar females from inheriting a property. It is possible that Mr Bennet's father drew up an entail by which the male descendants of his son would inherit and then, in default of a male heir, the property would pass to the descendants of his daughter.

This, of course, would provide an explanation, but to deprive the daughters of the owner in favour of an earlier female line would seem quixotic. Mr Bennet refers to Mr Collins as his cousin, but Jane Austen tells us that the estate was entailed on a distant relation. The son of Mr Bennet's sister would surely not be considered as such.

We are told that the Bennets confidently expected to have a son who, on his majority, would join with his father in breaking the entail. Presumably a more generously minded heir than Mr Collins would have acted similarly. However, Elizabeth, in talking to her father about Mr Collins's apology for being next in the entail, says "we cannot suppose he would help it if he could".

Was there really no remedy in law available to Mr Bennet? And if the Bennet daughters are barred by the entail from inheriting Longbourn, what will happen to the estate if Charlotte Collins fails to produce a son?

Yours faithfully,
P. D. JAMES,
51 St John Street, Oxford.
November 14.

Blyton retrospect

From Mr John Rowe Townsend

Sir, According to a spokesman for Price Waterhouse, who are handling the sale of Enid Blyton's copyrights (report, November 15), there is "a shortage of modern, high-quality children's authors".

I have been writing about children's books for thirty years past and can say with conviction that many modern children's authors are very much better than Enid Blyton.

Unfortunately, children's literature is a field on which a great many people are ready to pronounce from a basis of little or no knowledge.

As I know my limitations, I do not express any views on modern accountants.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ROWE TOWNSEND,
72 Water Lane, Histon, Cambridge.
November 15.

From Mr Cedric Hayes

Sir, Notwithstanding Enid Blyton's perceived racism and sexism (this assessment from a perspective fifty years on), her faulty syntax and the fact that she was a bit of a monster to her family, she has probably been the catalyst in galvanising millions of children into a lifetime of pleasure from reading books.

I read all her "Famous Five" books as a child; I re-read them to my daughter when young, and then again to a young relative only recently. I enjoyed each exercise immensely, as did my charges.

During the last re-read, whilst thoroughly enjoying the Five's adventures, my young listeners and I relished, with irony, Blyton's archaic snobbery and the lofty patrician views of her privileged young heroes.

I believe that her critics take this aspect far too seriously; for all of it, she's a wizard read in the hols.

Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC HAYES,
14 Thurleigh Road,
Didsbury, Manchester.
November 16.

Keeping up courtesies

From General Sir Harry Tuzo

Sir, Mr Nelms is right (letter, November 10; other letters November 13). We are beset by a growing army of granite-faced, ungracious "oldies", often furnished with lethal equipment such as self-propelled chairs, who seem to believe that their interests have total priority. The simple words "thank you" are not in their vocabulary.

I am 78 and even I notice it!

Yours faithfully,
HARRY TUZO,
Heath Farmhouse,
Fakenham, Norfolk.
November 13.

From Mr F. E. H. Snell

Sir, Is it quite in order for the Reverend Mr Gregory as founder of The Polite Society (letter, November 13) to call some of his contemporaries "sour, truculent, envious, grasping relics . . ."? Of course he may be right. But that isn't the test.

Yours sincerely,
F. E. H. SNELL,
4 St Pauls Gardens, St Pauls Road,
Chichester, West Sussex.
November 13.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 17: By Command of The Queen, the Lord Camoys (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the arrival of The King and Queen of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and welcomed Their Majesties on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 17: The Duke of York, Patron, this evening gave a Reception for Fight for Sight at Sunninghill Park.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 17: The Princess Royal this evening arrived at Royal Air Force Lyneham from Kuwait.

Mrs David Bowes-Lyon and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 17: The Prince of Wales today arrived in Riga for an official visit to Latvia.

This afternoon His Royal Highness was received by President Ulmanis.

The Prince of Wales later laid a Bouquet at the Latvian Freedom Monument.

His Royal Highness afterwards made a brief tour of the old City of Riga.

The Prince of Wales subsequently visited the offices of the Public Service Language Centre, jointly funded by the British Know-How Fund and the British Council.

His Royal Highness later visited the offices of Lattelekom.

The Prince of Wales, with President Ulmanis, this evening opened the new offices of the British Embassy in Riga and attended a Reception at the Little Guild Hall.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 17: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited Aberdeen and was received by Mr Richard Ellis (Deputy Lieutenant of the City of Aberdeen).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Youth Clubs Scotland, this afternoon presented the "BP Youth Clubs Scotland Grizzly Challenge and Gruff Kids" Awards at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre, Bridge of Don.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at the "Touch of Tartan" Ball held at the Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen, in aid of the Society. Mrs Charles Vyvyan was in attendance.

Service dinners

Midland Naval Officers' Association

Commodore I.R. Pemberton, President of the Midland Naval Officers' Association, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Council House, Birmingham.

Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Walmsley, Controller of the Navy, was the principal guest. Commander M.C. Evans, Commanding Officer of *HMS Birmingham*, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Sir Patrick Lawrence, Chairman of Kidderminster Hospital Trust, Admiral Walmsley, and Captain T. Norman Walker, Director of Naval Reserves, also spoke.

RNVR Yacht Club

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Yacht Club held last night in *HQS Wellington*. Commander C.P. Powlett, Commodore of the club, presided.

Royal Marines Association

Major-General and Mrs John St.J. Grey were the principal guests at the annual dinner of the City of London branch of the Royal Marines Association held last night at the Royal Marines Reserves Headquarters, Bermondsey. Lieutenant-General Sir Steuart Pringle presided.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers

Major-General R.M. Llewellyn, Colonel of The Royal Welch Fusiliers, presided at the annual dinner of the Officers' Association held last night at the Army and Navy Club.

HAC

Colonel and Alderman C.H. Martin was the principal guest at the annual dinner of II Squadron Honourable Artillery Company held last night at Armoury House. Major A.H.S. Gabb, Squadron Commander, presided. Second Lieutenant S. Trenwith also spoke.

Polar Bear Dinner Club

Brigadier Johnny Walker presided at the annual dinner of the Polar Bear Dinner Club, 49 Infantry Division/49 Infantry Brigade, held last night at Chetwynd Barracks, Nottinghamshire. Lieutenant-Colonel Godfrey Barker-Harland also spoke.

Army Cadet Force Association

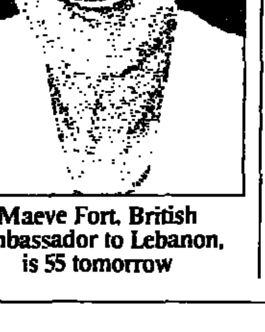
Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett presided at the annual members' dinner of the Army Cadet Force Association held last night at the Duke of York's Headquarters. Brigadier C.J. Marchant Smith was the principal guest.

Weekend birthdays

Lady Davina Windsor celebrates her 18 birthday tomorrow.

TODAY: Mr J.H. Barrington, executive director, League Against Cruel Sports, 43; the Right Rev Dewi Bridges, Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, 62; Mr John Camden, former chairman, RMC Group, 70; Sir Kenneth Clucas, civil servant, 74; Mr Anthony Coombs, MP, 43; Professor C.D. Cowan, former director, School of Oriental and African Studies, 72; Lord Cullen, 60; the Rev V.H.H. Green, former Rector, Lincoln College, Oxford, 80; Mr David Hemmings, actor, director and producer, 54; Mr John Hosier, former Principal, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, 67; Sir Gordon Jewkes, diplomat, 64; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, 72; Lord Mackenzie-Stuart, 71; the Earl of Malmesbury, 88; Mr Michael Pascoe, governor, Winchester Prison, 48; Mr Alan Pryce-Jones, book critic, 87; Professor J.R. Quayle, former Vice-Chancellor, Bath University, 59; Mr Brian Quinn, executive director financial stability, Bank of England, 59; the Duke of Roxburghe, 41; Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, 95; Sir Tasker Watkins, VC, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 77.

TOMORROW: Mr R.S. Baldock, High Master, St Paul's School, 51; Mr Raymond Blanc, chef and restaurateur, 46; Dr Michael Brindle, president, Royal College of Radiologists, 61; Mr C.J. Farrow, chief executive, Merseyside Development Corporation, 48; Miss Jodie Foster, actress, 33; Miss Kathleen Halpin, former chief administrator, Regions, WRVS, 92; Baroness Jeger, 80; Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, KG, 75; the Earl of Lindsay, 40; Mr David Lloyd-Jones, conductor, 61; Air Marshal Sir Kenneth Porter, 83; Miss Meg Ryan, actress, 34; Dr Robert C. Smith, Vice-Chancellor, Kingston University, 60; the Ven Michael Till, Archdeacon of Canterbury, 60; Professor Dame Margaret Turner-Warwick, former President, Royal College of Physicians, 71.



Maeve Fort, British Ambassador to Lebanon, is 55 tomorrow

Winston Churchill firing a stengun in 1941. His personal stengun was sold for £10,125 at Christie's in London yesterday. Churchill kept a small armoury at Chartwell, his Kent home, during the Second World War and practised regularly. The stengun, now deactivated and mounted on a stand, was bought by Martin Long, chairman of the Churchill insurance company. Mr Long, an admirer of the former Prime Minister, will display it in his office in Bromley, southeast London, with other Churchill memorabilia.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Carl von Weber, composer, Eutin, Germany, 1786; Louis Jacques Daguerre, painter and pioneer of photography, Cormeilles, France, 1789; Sir William Gilbert, collaborator with Sir Arthur Sullivan in the Savoy operas, London, 1836; Percy Wyndham Lewis, artist and writer, at sea, off Amherst, Nova Scotia, 1882; George Gallup, pioneer of public opinion polls, Jefferson, Iowa, 1901; Sir Alec Issigonis, designer of the Mini car, Smyrna, Turkey, 1906.

DEATHS: Reginald Pole, Archbishop of Canterbury 1556-58, London, 1558; Charles Heath, engraver, London, 1848; Captain George Manby, inventor of life-saving apparatus, at sea, Yarmouth, 1854; Edward Forbes, naturalist, Wardie, near Edinburgh, 1854; Chester Arthur, 21st American President 1881-85, New York, 1886; Marcel Proust, novelist, Paris, 1922; Thomas Power O'Connor, journalist and politician, London, 1929; Walter Hermann Nernst, physicist, Nobel laureate 1920, Muskau, Germany, 1941; John Watson, Australia's first Labour Prime Minister 1904, Sydney, 1941; Paul Eluard, poet, Charenton-le-Pont, 1952; Niels Bohr, physicist, Nobel laureate 1922, Copenhagen, 1962; Man Ray, photographer, painter and filmmaker, 1976.

William Caxton issued his first dated, printed book, 1477.

St Peter's Church in Rome was consecrated, 1626.

A fire at King's Cross, the worst in the history of the London Underground, killed 31 people, 1987.

The British hostage Terry Waite was released by pro-Iranian terrorists in Beirut, 1991.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: King Charles I, reigned 1625-49, Dunfermline, 1600; Bertel Thorwaldsen, sculptor, Copenhagen, 1770; Vicomte Ferdinand de Lesseps, promoter of the Suez Canal, Versailles, 1805; James Garfield, 20th American President 1881, Orange, Ohio, 1831; Tommy Dorsey, trombonist and bandleader, Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, 1905; Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India 1966-77 and 1980-84, Allahabad, 1917.

DEATHS: Nicolas Poussin, painter, Rome, 1665; Thomas Shadwell, dramatist, London, 1692; Theobold Wolfe Tone, Irish patriot, committed suicide, Dublin, 1798; Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, architect, Paris, 1806; Franz Schubert, composer, Vienna, 1828; Sir William Siemens, metallurgist, London, 1883; Edward Tolman, psychologist, Berkeley, California, 1959; Sir Basil Spence, architect, Eye, Suffolk, 1976.

Lord Tennyson became Poet Laureate, 1850.

President Lincoln delivered a speech at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, saying "government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth", 1863.

University news

Buckingham

The following appointments have been made:

Promotion

Senior Lecturer in Economics: Dr Ram Mudambi

New appointments

Lectureships: Mr Damian Carney (Law), Mrs Anne Hampton (International Hotel Management), Mr Jeremy Howard (History of Art & Heritage Management), Ms Savita Kumra (Business Studies), Mr Mike Lucas (Accounting and Finance), Mr Guy McCrindle (Law).

Librarian: Ms Joan Holah.

Dinners

International Law Association

Lord Slynn of Hadley, Chairman of the Executive Council of the International Law Association, presided at a dinner of the council held last night at the Athenaeum.

The Anchorites

Admiral Sir Nicholas and Lady Hunt were the principal guests at the annual ladies guest night dinner of the Anchorites held last night at the Cafe Royal. Mr H.G. Davy presided.

Royal College of Radiologists

Professor Charles Joslin delivered the annual Skinner lecture to the Royal College of Radiologists yesterday at the Royal College of Physicians. At and admission of fellows of the Royal College of Radiologists held earlier Sir Donald Harrison was admitted to honorary fellowship. Professor Joslin and Sir Donald were the guests of honour at a dinner to new fellows afterwards. Dr Michael Brindle, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, presided.

Cricket Society

Sr Colin Cowdrey and Sir Tim Rice were the guest speakers at a 50th anniversary dinner of the Cricket Society held last night at the New Connaught Rooms. Mr Hubert Doggart, president, was in the chair.

Oil Industries Club

Mr Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, was the principal speaker at the annual dinner of the Oil Industries Club held last night at Grosvenor House. Sir Philip Jones, president, was in the chair. Mr Graham Davies also spoke.

R.S.P. Snelling

Old Millfieldians and friends of Dick Snelling, who died last month, are invited to a Celebration of his Life in the Meyer Theatre at Millfield School, on Wednesday, November 22, at 5pm.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. Compton
and Miss C. Luckhurst

The engagement is announced between John, only son of the late Mr K. Compton and of Mrs M. Phipps, of Leamington Spa, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A.R. Luckhurst, of West Tytherley, Hampshire.

Mr E.F. Day
and Mrs E.C. Fishwick

The marriage has been arranged between Edwin, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Day, of Chudleigh, Devon, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Lamb, of Bristol.

Mr C.M.R. Dennis
and Miss J.L. Hultman

The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of the late Mr Michael Dennis and of Mrs Lesley Butcher and stepson of Mr Geoffrey Butcher, of Graffham, West Sussex, and Jennifer, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs James Hultman, of Clarence, New York.

Mr G.J.V. Ladds
and Miss R.H. Brewer

The engagement is announced between George, younger son of Major and Mrs William Ladds, of Doniford, Somerset, and Rachel, daughter of the late Mr Ken Brewer and of Mrs Dorrie Brewer, of Bristol.

Mr W.I. Moncrieff
and Miss R.R. McLennan

The engagement is announced between Ian, only son of Mr John Moncrieff and the late Mrs Madge Moncrieff, of Rhumrigg, Wormit, and Rosemary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Daniel McLennan, of Crail, Fife.

Mr M.J. Tutton
and Miss S.K.M. Bleach

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs John Tutton, of Beer, Devon, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kevan Bleach, of Brewood, Staffordshire.

Mr F.J.M. Valadji
and Miss F.M. Wood

The engagement is announced between François, son of M and Mme Jacques Valadji, of Chambourcy, France, and Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Wood, of Leigh, near Tonbridge.

Mr K.M. Wylie
and Miss C.E. Osborne

The engagement is announced between Kevin, son of the late Mr and Mrs James Wylie, of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Charlotte, daughter of Dr and Mrs D.B.R. Osborne, of Barnstaple, North Devon.

Marriages

The Hon Nathaniel Rothschild
and Miss A. Neilson

The marriage took place on Monday, November 13, in America, of the Hon Nathaniel Rothschild, son of Lord and Lady Rothschild, to Miss Annabelle Neilson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Max Neilson.

Flight Lieutenant R. Trotman-Dickenson
and Miss S. Rose

The marriage took place on Friday, November 17, 1995, at Mt Lofty House, Adelaide, South Australia, between Flight Lieutenant Richard Trotman-Dickenson, son of Ian and Rosalind Trotman-Dickenson, and Miss Samantha Rose, daughter of Norman and Heather Rose.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of York, as Colonel-in-Chief of The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's), will visit the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion at Swynnerton, Staffordshire, at 10.15.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Scottish Rugby Union, will attend the Scotland v Western Samoa international rugby match at Murrayfield at 12.40.

Reception

River Thames Society

Mr J. Watson Parton, Chairman of the Lower Tideway and Estuary branch of the River Thames Society, presided at a reception held yesterday at Watermen's Hall. The Master of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames and Mrs Allen attended.

Appointment

Dame Sue Tinson to be a Trustee of the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Lecture

The Continuing Professional Development Foundation

Mr Jocelyn Stevens, CVO, gave the Continuing Professional Development Foundation's Annual Estates Gazette Special Lecture entitled *Saving the Heritage* at The Royal Institution of Great Britain on Thursday. Members of the Foundation's Advisory Board were among those present.

Mr Jonathan Harris, OBE, President of the Foundation, was host at a private supper held afterwards.

Lord Bossom lecture

Eur-Ing Henri Pageot delivered the 1995 Lord Bossom lecture to the Faculty of Building yesterday at the House of Commons by courtesy of Mr Sydney Chapman, MP.

Distillers' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Distillers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr Peter Hallgarten; Upper Warden, Mr Anthony Edwards; Middle Warden, Mr Christopher Mitchell; Renter Warden, Mr Ian Coombs.

Church services tomorrow

Twenty third Sunday after Trinity

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 15 SE, Hereford Service (Lloyd), Holy is the true light (Harris), The Provost; 6.30 ES O praise the Lord (Batten), Responses (Ayleward), Short Service/Allelula I heard a voice (Weelkes), the Provost.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 Choral C, Coll Reg (Howells), Come let's rejoice (Amner); 3.30 Choral E, Open thou mine eyes (Rutter), Responses (Smith), Stanford in B flat, Hail gladdening light (Martin).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, M. Brevis (Palestrina), O Saviour of the world (Goss), Ego sum panis (Byrd), Rev Dr M Palmer; 4 Choral E, Responses (Rose), Stanford in A, The Lord hath been mindful (Wesley).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Holy is the true light (Harris), Canon J Simpson; 3.30 Special Service, Responses (Clucas), Noble in B minor, I saw a new heaven (Bainton).

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL 8 HC; 9.30 M, Miss A Tilby; 11 S Euch & Baptism, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), O salutaris hostia (Tallis), Rev P Brett; 2.15 Baptism; 3.15 E, Responses (Reading), Purcell in B flat, Glorious and powerful God (Gibbons); 6.30 Service for Admission of Readers.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G, Bread of heaven (Wadely), The Dean; 3 E, Reading (Responses), Murrill in E, Sing ye to the Lord (Bairstow)

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch & Baptism, The Provost; 11.15 S Euch, Chelmsford Mass (Vann), As Moses lifted up (Bairstow), The Vice Provost; 4 Baptism; 6 Choral E, Responses (Tomkins), O gladsome light (Oxley), Canon B Thompson.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Noble in B minor, Responses (Rose), Almighty God who hast me brought (Ford), Ven C Pinder; 11 S Euch, Schubert in G, O sacrum convivium (Archer), Rev D Powe; 3.30 E, Harwood in A flat, Responses (Rose), O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Te Deum & Jubilate in D (Purcell), Dr A Wicks; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Hear my prayer (Purcell), the Archdeacon; 6 E, Funeral Sentences (Purcell).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Haydn), O Lord give thy Holy Spirit (Tallis), The spirit of the Lord (Elgar), Canon M Wright; 3 Remember our Child; 5.30 E, O Lord give thy Holy Spirit (Tallis), Responses (Reading), Wood in E flat, Since by man came death (Handel)

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8, 11.15 HC, Sumsion in F, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), Canon M Perry; 10 M, Te Deum in G (Vaughan Williams), God be in my head (Radcliffe), Rev M Parker; 3.30 E, Coll Reg/Hymn to the Mother of God (Tavener).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Preston), Jubilate in C (Britten), Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), the Dean; 3.45 E, Preces (Trepte), Sumsion in G, I love the Lord (Harvey).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, I will lift up mine eyes (Ledger), Listen sweet dove (Grayston Ives), Rev M Shaw; 11.15 M, Responses (Morley), Alcock in B flat, Adoramus te (Monteverdi), the Treasurer; 3 E, Responses (Rose), Walmisley in D minor, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley); 6.30 E, Sing praise to God (Jackson), Rev Preb J Richards.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Mozart in D, And the glory of the Lord (Handel), the Treasurer; 3 Remembrance Service, Pie Jesu (Lloyd Webber), Rev V Rushton.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Jubilate (Walton), Pater noster (Stravinsky), Rt Rev L Lloyd Rees; 3.30 E, Responses (Leighton), Wood in E flat No 1, Justorum animae (Stanford).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Mozart), the Precentor; 11.15 M, Stanford in B flat, Responses (Reading), Pray that Jerusalem may have (Stanford), Canon D Brown; 3.45 E, Dyson in F, Responses (Smith), The Beatitudes (Arvo Pärt), Joie et clarté (Messiaen).

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 12.15 H Euch: Rev J Redvers Harris; 9 Euch, Rev N Court; 11 S Euch, Jesus College Service (Mathias), Creed (Shaw), Hear my prayer O Lord (Purcell), the Dean; 3.30 Choral E, Purcell in B flat, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell); 6.30 E, Rev Boon Hor Khoo.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL 7.30 M; 8 HC, Canon I Bennett; 9.30 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Langlais), Canon I Bennett; 6 Choral E, What'er I do believe (Ritchie), Responses (Leighton), Jackson in G, Remember now thy creator (Steggall)

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Like as the hart (Howells), March in B flat (Schubert); 6.30 E, From the rising of the sun (Ouseley), Quartet in A minor (Schubert).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Mass in E flat (Rheinberger), Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow), the Chancellor; 11.30 M, Responses (Tomkins), Coll Reg (Howells), For thou Lord art holy (Alcock), The Dean; 3 E, Responses (Tomkins), Walmisley in D minor, Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 MP; 9.30 C, Canon C Smith; 10.30 Text for the Day; 11 Euch & Baptism, Cpt A Turner; 6.30 E, Rev P Tarleton.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 11 Choral Euch, Coll Reg (Howells), Hail gladdening light (Wood), The Lord bless you and keep you (Rutter), Rev P Knapper; 3 E, Gloucester Service (Howells), Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn), Rev G Swinton.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, the Dean; 10 S Euch, Hear my prayer (Purcell), Jackson in G, Ego sum panis vivus (Palestrina), The Chancellor; 6 E, Responses (Ayleward), Wood in D, Let all the world (Leighton), The Treasurer.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon I Knox; 9.15 C, Canon D O'Connor; 11 S Euch, Missa O Quam gloriosum (Victoria), Darke in F, Hear my prayer (Purcell), Canon D O'Connor; 4 E, Responses (Sumsion), Murrill in E, Wash me throughly (Wesley), Canon P Calvert.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Mass (Gordon Lawson), Rev G Farran; 11.30 M, Stanford in A, I got me flowers (Vaughan Williams); 3 E, Jackson in G, Lord thou hast been our refuge (Bairstow), Rev Preb R Flower.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Rose), Te Deum Short Service (Gibbons), Hear my prayer (Purcell), Canon D Gray; 11.15 Euch, Missa brevis (Walton), Go down Moses (Tippett), Gracious Spirit (Forbes), Rev B Fenton; 6.30 ES, the Dean.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10.30 SM, Mass for double choir (Martin), O clap your hands (Gibbons), Tanz Toccata (Heiller); 10 MP; 3.30 V&B, Magnificat primi toni (Capece), Sing joyfully (Byrd), Finale from Sonata No 7 (Rheinberger)

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Te Deum in G (Sumsion), O thou the central orb (Wood), Rev C Stewart; 11.30 Euch; 3.30 E, Brewer in E flat, The spacious firmament on high, Canon R Wheeler.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Darke in F, Rev Canon L Stanbridge; 11.30 M, Coll Reg (Howells), Responses (Lloyd); 4 E, Purcell in G minor, My heart is inditing, Rev Canon J Meek.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Darke in A, O salutaris Hostia, the Canon; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Rose), Noble in B, O pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, the Succentor; 11.15 Choral M, Stanford in A, Call to remembrance (Farrant), the Canon; 6 Choral E, Cantate Domino (Pitoni), Noble in B minor, O Lord give thy Holy Spirit (Tallis), the Succentor.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM, Rorate Coeli (Haydn), Ave verum (Byrd); 1.30 Mass for Goans; 4.30 Nigerian Day of Prayer & Exposition

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 MS/HC, The Minister; 10 MS/HC, Coll Reg (Howells), the Bishop of Salisbury; 11.30 MS, the Bishop of Salisbury, O all ye people clap your hands (Purcell); 8 Licensing Service, the Minister.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Vierne), Jubilate Deo in E flat (Britten), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), Rev C Hill; 3.15 E, Wood in F (Coll Reg), Bring us O Lord God (Harris), Rev Canon M Bordeaux.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Brevis (Kodaly), Welcome sweet and sacred feast (Finzi), Rev P McGeary; 6 E&B, The Magdalen Service (Leighton), Jesu grant me this I pray (Whitlock), the Vicar.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11, Revd Dr J Stott; 6.30, Rev J Cook.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11, Missa octavi toni (Lassus), O praise the Lord (Batten), Amor Jesu dulcissime (Nanino).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock), Mr D Royce; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev P Elvy.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11 Sunday service; 11 Sunday School.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, Friends of Crown Court Festival Service, Rev S Hood; 6.30, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev N Gumbel; 11 Informal, Rev N Gumbel; 5, 7.30 Informal, Rev S Millar.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Vinea mea electa (Poulenc); 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Lucis creator (Washington).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 MP, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege; 7 Bach V, Cantata 52/Brandenburg Concerto/Fantasia in G (Bach), Rev R Englund.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC, 11 M, Hunt in C, My soul there is a country (Parry), the Rector; 6.30 Choral Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum/O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Rev D Lawrence-March.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Ireland in F, Purcell in C, Bread of angels (Rebelo), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Responses (Ayleward), Gibbons second service, Remember now thy creator (Steggall), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Coll Reg (Howells), Remember not Lord our offences (Purcell), Rev P Bishop.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev W Alexander Cairns; 6.30 Rev C MacLeod.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Mass for Double Choir (Hassler), Let my prayer come up (Purcell), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Lotti), Jesu Dulcis Memoria (Drayton), Rev B Wilson; 6 Choral E, Fauxbourdons (Whitlock), A Litany (Walton).

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family C, Voluntary on old 100th (Purcell), Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), The Joys of Mary, Rev D Watson; 6.30 E, Responses (Leighton), Hail gladdening light (Wood), Rev G Beauchamp.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa Secunda (Hassler), Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Webber in E flat, I will love, O Lord my strength (Kalinnikoff), Rev Dr P Bradshaw; 3 E, Purcell in G minor, Blow up the trumpet (Purcell), Rev J Bell.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC, Rev W Ratchford; 9.45 S Euch, St Martin's service (Stringer), Hear my prayer O Lord/Lord how long wilt thou be angry? (Purcell), The Vicar; 11.30 Visitors, Responses/Thou knowest Lord the secrets of our hearts/Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell), Rev B Schunemann; 2.45 Chinese, Rev J Bennett; 5 Choral E, Responses (Purcell), Purcell in G minor, Jehova quam multi sunt (Purcell); 6.30 ES, Rev B Schunemann.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 9.30 Euch, Rev F Gelli; 11.15 Choral M, Mr N Pain; 6.30 E, Rev G Gelli.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Wood in the Phrygian mode, Hear O my Lord (Whitlock), Rev J Ovenden; 6 Taize Service.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa caca (Morales), Sicut loculus (Bach), Rev R McLaren; 6 EP.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis in C (Orgelsolo Mozart), Let all the world (Vaughan Williams), Faire is the heaven (Harris), Rev C Courtauld.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Messe Basse (Fauré), Litanies a la Vierge noire (Poulenc), Fr W P Keyes.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7, 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Ave Maria (Mozart), Canon C Colven.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M & Sermon, Responses (Smith), Stanford in C, Ave Maria (Victoria), Viscount Tonypandy

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Hear my prayer (Purcell), Rev K Huxley.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Coll Reg (Howells), Allelula I heard a voice (Weelkes); 3.30 E, Precamini (Wood), Pelham Humphrey in E minor, Beatus Vir (Monteverdi), Responses (Sumsion).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch, Mass (Stravinsky), Thou knowest Lord (Purcell).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Wood in the Phrygian mode, The Chaplain.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Responses (Rose), O Lord God of hosts (Purcell), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Peace perfect peace (Gibbons), Blessing glory and wisdom (Wagner), Ven A Dean; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Sumsion in F, O sing joyfully (Batten), Rev C French

Church appointments

The Rev Ian Brackley, Rector of Haywards Heath Team Ministry, in the diocese of Chichester, has been appointed Suffragan Bishop of Dorking, in the diocese of Guildford, succeeding the Right Rev David Wilcox, who retired at the end of June.

The Rev Simon Brocklehurst, Team Vicar, St Francis, Clifton, in the Clifton Team Ministry (Southwell): to be Priest-in-charge, Mabe, and Cornish Ports Chaplain, a joint appointment with the Missions to Seamen (Truro).

The Rev Pam Burdon, Assistant Curate, Reading St John and St Stephen: to be Priest-in-charge, California (Oxford).

The Rev Robert Burston, Team Rector, Glendale Group: to be also an Honorary Canon of Newcastle Cathedral (Newcastle).

The Rev Richard Caddell, formerly Chaplain, RAF Locking, with permission to officiate in the diocese of Bath and Wells: to be Team Vicar, Beaconsfield Team Ministry (St Thomas', Holtspur) (Oxford).

The Rev Derek Chedzey, Curate, Church of the Holy Spirit, Bedgrove: to be Curate, Haddenham w Cuddington, Kingsey and Aston Sandford (Oxford).

The Rev Ian Coomber, Rector, Bedhampton: to be Rector, Durley, Vicar, St Peter, Curdridge, and Rector, Botley, three benefices held in plurality (Portsmouth).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev William Drury, Incumbent, Milton Regis, Holy Trinity (Canterbury): to retire May 31, 1996.

The Rev Gregory Linden, Rector, Middleton in Teesdale w Forest and Frith in plurality with Eggleston (Durham): to retire Nov 30.

PERSONAL COLUMN

The Lord is a sure protection in time of trouble, and cares for all who make him their refuge.
Nahum 1 : 7 (REB)

BIRTHS

BOTTING - On November 15th at home, to Carey (née Odell) and Jonathan, a son, Hugo Jonathan Aston, a brother for Henry and Gus.

CABLE - On November 7th 1995, to Lorraine (née Hartley) and Jon, a handsome son, Daniel Alexander Jon, a brother for James and Louise.

COOPER - On 12th November 1995, to Tricia and Mike, a beautiful daughter, Amber Faye.

FAWCETT - See Nye.

GRUDNIEWICZ - On November 17th, to Chris and Kate (née Worthington) twin daughters, Harriet Emily and Amy Charlotte, sisters for Lucy.

HAMILL - On 15th November, to Hugh and Kathryn (née Hill), a boy, Daniel Benjamin, a brother for Melissa.

HARVEY - On November 15th, to Kate (née Hinde) and Nick, a daughter, Flora Katherine Mary.

HIRJI - On November 15th, at The Portland Hospital, to Jyoti (née Chanrai) and Iqbal, a daughter, Zahra-Leila, a sister for Karam and Karima.

KOWALCZYK - On November 12th, at The Portland Hospital, to Nancy and Richard, a beautiful daughter, Rebekah Anna Claire and a sister for Ian and Peter.

KREMER - On November 16th, at The Portland Hospital, to Caroline (née Athron) and Don, a daughter, Zoe, a sister for Alex and Hannah.

MILES - On November 14th, at The Portland Hospital, to Geraldine and John, a son, Connor James.

NYE - Paul and Venetia are delighted to announce the birth of Stephanie Grace on October 30th, a much loved sister for Abigail, Clemency and Elsbeth.

PICTON-TURBERVILL - On November 11th to Mary (née Balme) and Geoffrey, a son, Thomas Joshua, a brother for Harry and Lucy.

REES - On 30th October, to Jane (née Davies) and Justin, a handsome son, John Anthony Lewis.

ROBINSON - To Jayne and Brian on 17th November, at Ashford Hospital, Adelaide, South Australia, a daughter, Charlotte Olivia Hope.

STEVENS - On November 12th, at The Portland Hospital, to Karen (née Kessly) and Graham, a son, William James, a brother for Stephanie and Francesca.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

MACKENZIE - Frances and John Mackenzie at Kensington Registry 19th November 1945.

DEATHS

ARONSON - On 14th November 1995, Evelyn Aronson aged 96, peacefully in North London. Funeral 3.00pm Wednesday 22nd November at Golders Green Crematorium Hoop Lane, London NW11. No flowers, but donations in lieu to Jewish Blind Society.

BERNERD - Geoffrey, on November 16th, peacefully at the Harley Street Clinic, after a short illness. Beloved husband of Paula, loving father to Elliott, Jenny and Paul, and dearest grandfather to Tara, Hayley and Chantal. Private cremation. No flowers please, but donations if desired to the National Foundation of Diabetes, 177A Tennison Road, London, SE25 5NF.

BRENT - Cynthia Elizabeth "Cindy" on November 15th, brave and cheerful to the end she will be greatly missed by us all. Service of Thanksgiving at St. Mary Bredin, Canterbury Thursday November 23rd at 2.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury.

BUTLER - On November 16th at his home in Mudgley, Somerset, Philip Malcolm, aged 51 years after a brave fight against cancer. Husband of Kate and father of Kirsty and Claire. Funeral at Wedmore Parish Church, Somerset at 2 pm on November 22nd. Flowers or donations payable to the Non Hodgkins Lymphoma Society c.o R.A. Baker & Sons, Funeral Directors, Meare, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9TQ.

BUXTON - Bernard Buxton DSO, on 17th November 1995, peacefully after devoted care in Witney Community Hospital. Husband of Sybil and father of Richard. Funeral at St Mary Magdalene, Woodstock, Wednesday 22nd November 1995 at 2.15pm, followed by private cremation. No flowers please, but donations if desired to The Woodstock Branch of The Royal British Legion (Mr Gordon Hollis, 21 Union Street, Woodstock).

FILMER-SANKEY - Patrick Hugh, suddenly on November 14th aged 70. A beloved husband, father, grandfather and true friend. Funeral private in Cheshire. Memorial Service in London to be announced later.

GUNDE - Ladislaus. On 12th November 1995, aged 70 years. Funeral service at St Mary's Chapel, Kensal Green Cemetery on Thursday 23rd November at 11 am. Remembered with love by Leslie, Sharon and grandchildren Henry and Helena. "Dona eis requiem, sempiternam requiem".

MALLINSON - Sir William. On Friday 17th November 1995 at the Royal Hospital, Putney aged 53 years. Much loved father of James and Kate. Funeral service at Holy Trinity Church, Bembridge, W1. On Thursday 23rd November 1995 at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the RNLI. Memorial service in London at a later date.

MORRIS - On 16th November 1995, peacefully at The Knolls, Leighton Buzzard, Frances Deans Morris L.D.S., R.F.P.S.G. Retired Dental Surgeon. Formerly of Bow Brickhill, Buckinghamshire, aged 81 years. Funeral on Friday 24th November at St Mary Magdalene Church, Little Brickhill at 2pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired for the Willen Hospice or N.C.H. Action for Children may be sent c/o Neville Funeral Service, 311 Marsh Road, Leagrave, Luton, Beds. LU3 2RZ. (01582 490006.

RUSSELL - Elizabeth. On Thursday 16th November 1995, peacefully after a short illness, devoted wife of the late Admiral the Hon Sir Guy Russell, and much loved mother of Jim, Oliver and Margie. Cremation private. A Thanksgiving Service and placing of the Ashes to be announced later.

THATCHER - Marjorie Keysall on 16th November, much loved daughter of Sir Arthur and Lady Yapp, widow of Alex, mother of Veronica and Michael and grandmother of Sarah, Robert, Lucy and Peter. Funeral at St Bartholomew's, Wanborough, near Guildford on Monday 27th November at 11.15 am. Family flowers only, but donations to the YMCA.

THURSFIELD - Margaret Ethel (Peggy) peacefully on November 16th aged 97, much loved wife of the late (Rev) Gerald, dear mother of Yoma, Richard, Barbara, Robert and Rosemary, dearly loved by all her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends. Funeral service at St. Mary's and All Saints Beaconsfield at 12 noon on Monday November 27th followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if wished, to The Mother's Union, c/o H. C. Grimstead, Tilbury House, Shepherds Lane Beaconsfield, HP9 2DU. Tel: (01494) 672 668.

WILD - Robert David Fergusson, priest, aged 86, on November 16th. Loving husband of Mary, father of Charles, Christian and Rose, and grandfather of Katy and Louis Papineau. Funeral Friday, November 24th, 2.45 p.m., Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowcombe. By his own wish there will be no memorial service.

YOUNG - Mary, unexpectedly on 13th November, beloved wife of Hugh and dearly loved mother of Oonagh, Hugh, Shauna and Fiona. Her body will be received into St William of York Church, Ecclesall Road, Sheffield at 6.30 pm on 22nd November. Requiem Mass on Thursday 23rd November at 12 noon followed by private burial. Family flowers only please.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

LANGFORD - A memorial service for Mr Brian Langford F.C.I.M. will be held at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Cannon Street, Dover, at 12 noon on Friday, December 8th, 1995. Advice of attendance would be appreciated: please telephone 01304 223851.

POOLTON - There will be a memorial service for Peter J Poolton at 6.30 pm on Thursday 7th December 1995 in Memorial Chapel, Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

GREENSHAW - Ellen. Dearly loved and deeply missed. Alan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAVE YOU Declined or returned an honour? Television Company seeks interviewees. Please contact P O Box No: 1988 ASAP. Strictest confidence will be observed

FLATSHARE

CHELSEA - Single bedrm, own bathrm in family home, to let for weekday use only (suit commuter). £85pw. 0171 352 2481

CLAPHAM COMMON, North side, dble b/rooms with sep dressing rm/study. Boast period hse o'looking common with 2 girls, 1 guy. 1st flr drawing rm 20ft x 21ft Kit/B'fast, gdn. 5 mins tube. £295 per month. Tel: 0171 350 1741.

KENSINGTON W14. M/F share hse with 2 others £325 pm inc. Tel: 0171 603 5018 (eves)

NW1 Rm to let in stunning house nr Regents Pk, all amen. £390pcm. 0171 387 0375.

WANTED Chelsea SW7. Brilliant Flatmate available, clean, Non Smoker, Canadian Professional male requires double room in Luxury Flat, (porterage and good security are assets). £400 pcm. Ring Anton on 0956 337779

COMPUTER SOFTWARE

ENCARTA 1996 UK version now in stock - Cortek CD-ROMS 01243 371 512

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

HUMPHREY, VIOLET MABEL of Hartslaep Nursing Home, Hartslaep Road, Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey died on 1st October 1995. Particulars to SARJEANT & SHEPPARD Solicitors of 180 Friar Street, Reading, Berkshire before 30th January 1996.

JOSEPH PALACHE of 19 High Mount, Station Road, Hendon, London NW4. Retired Book Keeper, died 16th February 1994 particulars to Black, Graf & Co. 14/18 College Crescent, London NW3 5LL. Executors Barry Palache and Ann Valerie Palache before 22nd January 1996

LEGAL NOTICES

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of GEOFFREY MARTIN, former husband of the late ZOE JUNE MARTIN, of Northern Rhodesia, and/or his children GUY MARTIN and NGAIRE MARTIN (possibly nee MARTIN), formerly of Northern Rhodesia, please contact BRUCE STAINTON, Partner, Mason, Lawrie and Stainton, Solicitors, P O Box 989, Auckland, New Zealand. Ph: 0064 09 373 2447, Fax: 0064 09 307-2093 by (2 months from date of advertisement).

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
NO. 005891 OF 1995
IN THE MATTER OF
JOHN WADDINGTON PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 1st November 1995 confirming the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the above named Company was registered pursuant to Section 138 of the Companies Act 1985, by the Registrar of Companies on the 13th November 1995.

DATED this 15th day of November 1995
EVERSHEDS Solicitors
Cloth Hall Court, Infirmary Street,
Leeds LS1 2JB (Ref 164JMS/ICJ)
Solicitors for the above-named Company

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صكذا من الاهل

NAN MACDONALD

Nan Macdonald, Organiser of Northern *Children's Hour*, 1937-49, died on November 10 aged 87. She was born on May 24, 1908.

NORTHERN *Children's Hour* enjoyed a creative period in the immediate postwar years under the leadership of Nan Macdonald. Children's broadcasting had been seen as an essential part of programming since the BBC was established in 1922 and, by the time Nan Macdonald arrived in the Manchester studios in 1937, *Children's Hour* had become a teatime institution across the country.

The programme had an unusually regional bias in those days. Some elements of the show were broadcast nationwide, but regional organisers had the choice of opting out of the national timetable when they wished. Nan Macdonald regarded the duty of each region as being to compete, in a friendly manner, for the best quality of programme. She accepted a minimum of programmes from other parts of the country, and usually managed to produce northern programmes five days out of the seven each week.

The job tested her reserves of energy to the full. She rarely took a day off, frequently working into the small hours of the morning editing scripts. She believed in the same level of commitment from her staff. For example, in spite of advancing technology, Nan Macdonald insisted that wherever possible all her programmes should be broadcast live. Not even the Christmas Day programme was to be recorded — everyone taking part was ordered to come in during the afternoon. She also insisted on plenty of rehearsals. Not surprisingly, she was disliked by some of those at the BBC who had, before her arrival, developed a more leisurely attitude towards their work.

But her approach was an undoubted success in Manchester, and an unusually high proportion of the programmes which she made there were broadcast nationally. Among these were the adventures of *Biggles*, which was launched in Manchester after the war, and became from the late 1940s onwards a favourite with children all over the country. Another, *Out with Romany*, was a programme she inherited when she took over in 1937. This was a simulated nature "walk" from the Rev G. Bramwell Evens. It was recorded in the studio, but Nan Macdonald made the background sound effects so convincing that many young listeners thought Evens was actually outside. *Out with Romany* was broadcast nationally from 1938 to 1943, and a staggering 13 million listeners tuned in.

A further reason for Nan Macdonald's success was her refusal to patronise her audience. She regarded her task as to stimulate children, and to prepare them for more mature listening habits. She also believed in taking the microphone to the listeners. Programmes like *Nursery Sing-Song* and *Saturday Afternoon Variety* came from children's hospitals, and there were annual visits to the Isle of Man.

Margaret Annie Macdonald was born in London of Scottish parentage, one of a large family. She was educated at the North London Collegiate School, and at Girton College, Cambridge, where she read classics. Her main interest, however, lay in the performing arts. As well as being musical as a girl, she loved amateur theatricals, and she led and trained the chorus for a performance of Aristophanes's *The Frogs*, in Greek at Girton. She then became classical mistress at Howell's School, Denbigh.

She joined the BBC in 1934, and attended their training school specialising in *Children's Hour* work. A brief spell in the London and Edinburgh *Children's Hour* studios, was followed by her appointment to Manchester, as *Children's Hour* Organiser — as the head of programming was then known — in September 1937. She remained there for the next 12 years. During the war, the old system of opting out was replaced by one Home Service programme to which each region made a contribution. Even in these austere times, Nan Macdonald managed to commission serialisations of classics such as Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*, and Dickens's *Nicholas Nickleby*. Regional broadcasting was resumed on July 29, 1945, and at 5.15pm that day young listeners heard, for the first time, the new Northern *Children's Hour* signature tune

From the start, Nan Macdonald saw the importance of educating her listeners. Schools, youth clubs and libraries were consulted, and she broadcast School Certificate set books, condensing many of these herself into 55-minute programmes. At the piano, Violet Carson played syllabus pieces for those taking music examinations.

Also on the musical front, she approached Charles Groves in 1944, immediately he was appointed conductor of the BBC Northern Orchestra. She arranged for the orchestra to provide periodical programmes for children, and soon had Groves giving introductory talks for the concerts, in which he discussed the music and played short extracts at the piano.

Other successes included *Walks With Wilfred*, which took Wilfred Pickles all over the North of England; lectures from the zoo curator Gerald Iles, who brought his animals into the studio; numerous plays, and talks on films, current affairs, local government, books, science, art, railways and sport.

Among the young people who began their performing careers with Nan Macdonald were Derek Jacobi; the television presenter Judith Chalmers; the actress Billie Whitelaw; the broadcasters Brian Trueman and Brian Redhead.

Nan Macdonald left Manchester in 1949 to do a spell in children's television in London but in 1951 she became a freelance broadcaster. Her contributions to Northern *Children's Hour* were resumed with a documentary for the Coronation — *A Thousand Years of Pageantry*.

Thereafter, with Trevor Hill as Northern *Children's Hour* Organiser, she worked as a contributor. She also arranged and narrated fairy tale stories, and contributed features on such subjects as space travel, guide dogs for the blind, the conductor Sir Thomas Beecham, and (going out in 1960, the very first such programme) on Britain's new motorways. When *Children's Hour* finished in 1964, Nan continued to adapt classic books for older listeners for BBC Radio, including *Book at Bedtime*.

She retired in the late 1970s, and spent her last years in Paddington. She played the violin and viola in a number of amateur orchestras, but, more unusually, she also loved snooker, both playing it and watching it on television. Other sporting interests included golf, tennis and miniature rifle shooting.

She never married, and is survived by two sisters.

PROFESSOR CHARLES MITCHELL

Professor Charles Mitchell, art historian, died on October 23 aged 83. He was born on January 25, 1912.

A DEDICATED and infectiously enthusiastic teacher, Charles Mitchell had a fascination for art which swept across a broad canvas, from seascapes to surrealism, from the Middle Ages to modernity. He coupled this scholarship with the skills of polished communication, and wrote and lectured with an elegant finesse belying his long hours of meticulous study.

That he did not publish more was due partly to the breadth of his scholarship, partly to his dedication to teaching, and partly to the poliomyelitis which attacked him in his early forties.

His first publication on Poussin was published in the *Journal of the Warburg Institute* (1938), and was followed by *Seaman's Portrait* in 1940 and the *Book of Ships* in 1941. He also wrote articles on Reynolds, on history painting in England, a book on Hogarth and an exemplary edition of *Hogarth's Peregrination*.

It was Fritz Saxl, the director of the Warburg Institute, an organisation concerned with the study of the after life of antiquity, who first aroused his interest in the Italian Renaissance and its rediscovery of the physical vestiges of classical antiquity. This area of scholarship was to remain focal for Mitchell.

He wrote a fine piece on Boniface VIII and pictorial propaganda in 1951 following it by studies in archaeology and romance in Renaissance Italy. A description of a 15th-century illuminated Plutarch manuscript and a British Academy lecture on Felice Feliciano (which has since become canonical) were then succeeded by a work on Pirro Ligorio, and by studies of Cyriac of Ancona.

However, Mitchell was a perfectionist and never completed to his own satisfaction his monograph on the imagery of Sigismundo Malatesta's Tempio in Rimini which had remained a preoccupation of his for some forty years. Only fragments of it have been published. But these, along with other writings on subjects which ranged from Raphael to Holiday's illustrations to the *The Hunting of the Snark*, accurately convey the breadth of the enthusiasms of this sometimes erratic, but always scholarly, man.

Charles Mitchell was educated at Merchant Taylors' School and at St John's College, Oxford, where he read PPE. He later took a BLitt on Grünewald, travelling to see his paintings in Germany, sleeping in ditches and eating as little as possible so as to contribute only minimally to the Nazi economy.

Appointed assistant at the National Maritime Museum in 1935, he joined the civilian staff of the Admiralty in 1939 and from 1943 to 1945 held a commission in the RNVR Special Branch.

Before the war he had begun to frequent the Warburg Institute, then newly moved from Hamburg to London in anticipation of Nazi interference, and on his demobilisation in 1945 he was recruited by Saxl to its staff. He taught there for 15 years, with intervals as visiting professor at Bowdoin and Bryn Mawr Colleges in the United States.

Bryn Mawr then offered him a permanent chair, which he occupied from 1960 to 1980, attracting while he held the post an exceptional group of teachers and graduate students.

In 1980 he returned to Bowdoin for two years, and from 1984 to 1985 was Kress Professor in Washington.

Throughout this time he made regular visits to England, chiefly to Norfolk, where he had a cottage midway between the northern coast and the birthplace of Horatio Nelson. But moving back permanently to Britain in his later years he made his home in Oxfordshire.

Mitchell was twice married, in 1935 to Prudence Yalden Thompson, who was killed in an air raid in 1940, and in 1944 to Jean Flower, who survives him together with a son from each of his marriages.

BRIAN EASDALE

Brian Easdale, composer, died on October 30 aged 86. He was born on August 10, 1909.

ALTHOUGH Brian Easdale would be the last man to look down on composing for films as mere hack work, there were many other aspects to his talents, and it was unfortunate that his outstanding success in the cinema overshadowed everything else he did.

On the other hand, he probably owed most of his chances elsewhere to the great fame of his music in *The Red Shoes* (1948), especially in the ballet sequence. Although he had always been fascinated by the dramatic side of music, and had composed his first opera, based on the fairy tale *Rapunzel*, when he was just 18, his two big opportunities for operatic success in the theatre came in the early 1950s. His opera *The Corn King*, with a libretto (based on her own novel) by Naomi Mitchison, was produced at the Paddington Hall Theatre in 1950. Initially even more promising, in 1951, was his opera *The Sleeping Children* (original libretto by Tyrone Guthrie) presented by the English Opera Group at the Cheltenham Festival.

The style of both these operas, like his music for *The Red Shoes*, was lush and late-Romantic, influenced by Scriabin and early Stravinsky, and roughly comparable to that of Szymanowski. The first enjoyed a fair success, with its imaginative insights into the primitive world of the fringes of classical Greece finding favour.

The Sleeping Children, on the other hand, though it had the support of one or two powerful critics, alienated the majority by its extraordinary Expressionist/Surrealist libretto, full of dissolving dream images of sex and sadism. If Easdale was upset by this setback, he never let it show. Having won an Oscar for *The Red Shoes*, he went on in 1950 to receive the music award at the Venice Film Festival for *Gone To Earth*.

Creatively, the conditions under which he wrote his major film scores were ideal. Over some 15 years he built up very happy working relationships with Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, composing the original music for most of their films which called for it, from *Black Narcissus* in 1947 to *The Queen's Guards* in 1961.

The phase of his film career which began with *Black Narcissus* found him not entirely unprepared. He had learnt about film technique in the hard (though not unsympathetic) school of prewar British documentary under John Grierson. Despite his precocity he was, like most young composers, finding it hard to make ends to meet in the 1930s. After being educated at Westminster Abbey Choir School and the Royal College of Music, he had had some success with such concert pieces as a *Death March* conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargent in 1928 and *Six Poems* for orchestra, first given in Vienna in 1936.

But he still had to earn a living. On the advice of Louis MacNeice, at that time a neighbour, he applied to the GPO Film Unit, where such bright young men as Benjamin Britten and W. H. Auden were already working. The amenities were basic but the atmosphere encouraged enterprise, and Easdale's scores for films such as Pat Jackson's *Men In Danger* and the silhouette film-maker Lotte Reiniger's *HPO* made an impression.

He was called up early in the war, and rapidly assigned (in the light of his special experience) to the Crown Film Unit. From there he was sent on special assignment to Information Films of India. The job was not onerous, but gave him the opportunity to follow up a strong interest in Indian music and its special instruments.

He also became friendly in India with Rumer Godden, author of the book on which *Black Narcissus* was based, so that when it was announced as a film project, he felt it was a natural for him. After setting Easdale to write a trial sequence, both Powell and Pressburger agreed he was the right choice.

The score of *Black Narcissus* vividly evoked the icy spaces and steamy passions of life in and around a Himalayan missionary convent, coming over with much of that "sharp excitement" which Dilys Powell was later to note in *The Red Shoes*.

When eventually Powell and Pressburger split up in the late 1950s, Easdale did not easily find work elsewhere in films, and returned mainly to concert music. He had a considerable success in 1962 with his *Missa Conventrensis* composed for the consecration of the new Coventry Cathedral, but in general his later years were overshadowed by poverty and neglect — a neglect not helped by his own resort to drink.

Just recently the surge of interest in classic film music had brought him renewed attention, and new recordings of several of his major works are now in process. His music suffered from falling somewhat between the two stools of lush late Romanticism and Modernist asperity. But this meant that the cinema was ideal for him, in that audiences will accept subliminally much which would challenge them uncomfortably in the concert halls.

He was twice married, and is survived by three daughters and two sons.

JACK HOLT

Jack Holt, OBE, boat designer, died on November 14 aged 83. He was born on April 18, 1912.

JACK HOLT was the doyen of the racing dinghy world, whose innovative plywood-constructed boats did more than anything else to revive sailing after the Second World War. In a 60-year career which began on the River Thames at Hammersmith, he developed more than 40 class designs, his most famous being the Enterprise, Mirror, Cadet, GP 14, Heron, Hornet and Miracle. Today, more than 250,000 of his designs can be found worldwide.

The son of a panel beater, John Lapworth Holt was born in Hammersmith and soon showed a natural affinity for the waters. A member of the local troop of Sea Scouts, he added a little excitement to excursions in the group's staid whaler by jamming the sweeps under the leeward gunwale and climbing out to the end of the extended oars to improve the balance and speed of the boat. Seeing this perilous display of agility in the fast-flowing River Thames caused such consternation that sailing was banned within the troop.

Jack promptly left and, together with his brother, bought *Winnie*, an ageing 14ft lug-sailed clinker dinghy for £7. 10s. from the novelist A.P. Herbert who lived nearby. They paid for its upkeep by doing odd-jobs on other boats which supplemented Jack's meagre wages as an apprentice joiner.

This promising career was cut short when, at the age of 17, his right leg was shattered in a motorcycle accident. He was in and out of hospital for the next two years and ended up with one leg two inches shorter than the other. But even a waist-high plaster cast could not stop him sailing.

During his convalescence, he built an 18ft half-decked clinker dinghy in the back garden. "The ground was rather uneven and she finished up with a plank more on one side than the other," he admitted many years later. Despite this, *Candlelight* enjoyed a successful racing career at the London Corinthian Sailing Club, winning many races on handicap. The boat also demonstrated Holt's skill at solving problems.

Impecunious at that time, Holt could hardly afford to build the boat, let alone buy the mast track and sail slides needed to complete her. Instead, he came up with the idea of cutting a groove up the back of the mast and slotting the bolt rope edging the sail, inside it. Three sailmakers said it was totally impracticable and Jack finished up sewing pink beads to the sail to act as links to his grooved mast, but his idea soon spread right through the sport.

When his great-uncle, John Holt, died in 1929, Jack took over the tiny wooden hut on Lower Mall, Hammersmith, where he had operated a boat repair business. It was the start of an illustrious career that continued up until his death.

One of his first boats was *Ace*, an International 14, which won the Shackleton trophy the day after her launching. This was followed up with more winners like *Rapier* and *Preface*. These successes cut little ice with the upper-class attitudes then dominating the sport, and his boat was largely sneered at when Holt turned up to compete at Cowes against such luminaries as Stuart Morris and Peter Scott.

This cold shoulder treatment so incensed Beecher Moore, a young American publisher then crewing for Stuart Morris, that he made it his business to seek out this upstart once back in London. The two became firm friends, often crewing for each other and the relationship developed into a business partnership that survived for fifty years.

Holt's driving ambition was to provide economical boats for the masses rather than pander to yacht club snobberies. He succeeded better than any of his contemporaries, becoming the most successful small boat designer in the world.

Jack Holt was appointed OBE in 1979. He was also presented with the RYA's Golden Anchor, the highest award given by the sport. Though he remained a shy and unassuming man, there are few people who sail today who will not have done so in one of his designs.

He is survived by his wife and a daughter. His son predeceased him.

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ON THIS DAY

November 18, 1818

The obituary of Charlotte Sophia, Princess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Queen Consort of George III, praised her virtues and devotion to duty. Nevertheless it found room for criticism, doubting her "sacred obligations of a mother".

DEATH OF THE QUEEN.

It is at length our duty to announce this melancholy, though not unlooked-for, termination of a course of human suffering uncommonly protracted and severe. That Her Majesty should not have sunk before, under the complicated maladies which assailed her at so advanced an age, is, we are taught to believe, more surprising to her medical attendants, than that she has ultimately yielded to their violence. The Queen was born on the 19th of May, 1744; having from nature a sound and vigorous frame. Until within these two years, Her Majesty enjoyed an almost uninterrupted state of health; and, as is sometimes the case with those whose habits are regular, and whose various bodily powers are thence exposed to a pretty equal pressure, the first very serious attack of disease was that which indicated a general breaking-up of her constitution. The water which accumulated in her limbs and on her chest was an unequivocal symptom of the deadly stage which Her Majesty's sufferings had arrived at. This source of distress and immediate alarm was, however, acted upon, from time to time, both by medicines and surgical operations; which were productive of partial, though gradually diminishing, relief, until "the potent poison quite o'ergrew" the antidotes applied to it by professional science. Each interval of repose became shorter than the preceding one. The Queen expired at Kew about 1 o'clock on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1818 in the 75th year of her age.

Her Majesty's figure was very pleasing, but her countenance, though not without attraction when she smiled, could not boast any claim to beauty. It was, however, a well-known fact, that the King declared himself satisfied with his connubial fortune. She entered at once upon the Royal offices of the drawing room, with a most becoming grace and easy dignity. She gave beautiful children to the country. She interested the people of England as a fruitful mother; and was considered with general regard as a domestic woman; so much so, that Colonel Barr, then a violent opposition speaker, delivered a very splendid eulogium on her "mild, tender, and unassuming virtues".

That Her Majesty's voluntary tastes were not exactly those which had been inferred from the habits of her matrimonial life, may be conjectured from the revolution which they seemed to undergo soon after the period when her Royal husband ceased to exercise the supreme authority in this realm. At that period, a transition was observed from "grave to gay." The sober dignity, the chastened grandeur, the national character of the English Court, seemed to vanish with its afflicted Sovereign. A new species of grandeur now succeeded, in which there was more of the exterior of royalty, and less of its becoming spirit. A long series of what were meant to be festivities — crowded balls and elaborate suppers — glittering pomp — gaudy and gorgeous, yet fluttering, decoration — reckless, capricious, and never-ending profusion — all the apparatus of common-place magnificence, were introduced with the Regency, and countenanced or apparently not discountenanced by the Queen.

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18 1995

NEWS

Doctors authorised to end life

■ Doctors were given the right to end the life of a man of 27 who faced the prospect of spending another 30 years in a persistent vegetative state after suffering brain damage during a routine dental operation. The young man, formerly a London student, is mute and apparently blind, and does not recognise family or friends. A High Court judge ruled that doctors should stop feeding him so he can "die with dignity" .... **Page 1**

Man and woman preying on elderly

■ A 79-year-old woman found bound and gagged in her freezing home was the victim of a man and woman who have attacked two other old people in the last five days, police disclosed. One of them was severely beaten for just 74p .... **Page 1**

Major peace initiative

John Major will try to revive the Northern Ireland peace process this weekend with fresh proposals aimed at breaking the deadlock over IRA arms .... **Page 1**

Couple face ruin

A couple face ruin after being ordered to pay £300,000 to a bank they blame for the collapse of their businesses.......................... **Page 3**

Marlow testifies

Tony Marlow, the Tory MP, told a coroner's court how he tried to revive his wife after he found her face down in the sea .... **Page 4**

Shoestring thriller

A British film is taking on Hollywood with a budget of £15,000. The stars are appearing free in the supernatural thriller.......... **Page 5**

Change to retrial law

The ancient legal principle that an individual cannot be tried twice for the same offence is to be ended in certain cases.................. **Page 7**

Mission blasts off

The first of three big European space missions blasted off to seek clues to the birth of suns and planets .... **Page 8**

Migrant expulsion

The Italian Government issued a decree enabling the expulsion of illegal immigrants for drug peddling and prostitution ...... **Page 11**

Stowaway murder

A Ukrainian sea captain denied in a French court murdering eight African stowaways who were thrown overboard............ **Page 14**

Bosnia optimism

US negotiators were optimistic that a final agreement to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina could be sealed in days.............. **Page 15**

Rabin case plea

A Tel Aviv judge rejected a request to release the 20-year-old former girlfriend of Yitzhak Rabin's self-confessed assassin .... **Page 16**

Vatican tries to gag woman mystic

■ The Vatican has banned the writings of a woman mystic, Vassula Ryden, who is speaking in London today. It has ordered Roman Catholic bishops to intervene so that "no opportunity may be provided for disseminating her ideas" .... **Page 9**

FIONA HANSON

John Major meets wellwishers at Age Exchange in south London, which recently received lottery funds

OPINION

Scottish sense: There must have been more than a quarter of Scots at the last election who were natural Conservatives. A policy change may allow them to vote Tory again with confidence .... **Page 21**

No government today: Mr Clinton and Mr Gingrich know that the longer the budget farce goes on, the stronger the voters' temptation will be to turn to a maverick such as Ross Perot................ **Page 21**

PAPERS

The US has committed its prestige to an effort to halt the Balkan war. Abandoning that commitment would have repercussions among our allies, our foes and our trading partners

— *Washington Times*

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Young people are not stupid. When adults tell them that Ecstasy is in the same legal category as heroin, they react that the law is mad .... **Page 20**

Philip Howard: The "Black Baron" has been jailed for creating a computer virus that raged through Cyberspace like conjunctivitis. Abandon hope, all you who press ENTER here .. **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Nan Macdonald, Organiser of Northern *Children's Hour*, 1937-49; **Brian Easdale**, composer .. **Page 23**

LETTERS

Comments on Princess Diana's broadcast; a mystery in *Pride and Prejudice* **Page 21**

BUSINESS

Economy: The Confederation of British Industry believes that the current pause in the recovery could last for another six months.. **Page 25**

Lloyd's: Peter Middleton's dramatic exit from Lloyd's of London could have cost him a bonus worth £50,000 or more as he would have been entitled to a payment in the New Year........................ **Page 25**

ARTS

Travolta reborn: Five years ago, he was a has-been. Now John Travolta is commanding £13m a film....... **Page 17**

Hindemith in Garden: The Royal Opera has paid a centenary tribute to the German composer Paul Hindemith with a staging of his epic *Mathis der Maler* ... **Page 17**

SPORT

Cricket: England were in a strong position at 381 for nine when a violent storm brought a premature end to the second day of the Test against South Africa.............. **Page 48**

Rugby union: South Africa, who take on England at Twickenham this afternoon, are unbeaten in their last 14 internationals, although only four of those have been away from home .... **Page 47**

Racing: Adrian Maguire went to hospital with ankle and neck injuries after a three-horse pile-up in a race at Ascot........................ **Page 45**

CAR 95

Toyota trouble: A "most blatant piece of cheating" — Toyota's elimination from the Network Q RAC Rally

SATURDAY TIMES

MAGAZINE

Schoolboy fantasy: William Brown has captivated adults for four generations. Alan Franks learns why ... **Page 10**

War of words: When Virago was sold last month it was the end of a feminist dream. But the dream had long since become a nightmare.... **Page 27**

WEEKEND

Could do better?: What pupils say about the new school uniform designed by Sir Hardy Amies................ **Pages 1, 3**

Travel: Alice Thomson in the Atlas mountains; a weekend break at Marrakesh's most glamorous hotel .... **Page 18**

Books: Ginny Dougary on a woman's lot ..... **Pages 14, 15**

10 15

The weekly magazine for young Times readers

Skater's special: Britain's best extreme in-line skaters — and your chance to win a £100 pair of in-line skates .... **Pages 3, 6**

Recommended: The best books, films, television and games........................ **Page 10**

Cover story: Beatie Edney and Holly Aird are women behaving outrageously in *Dressing for Breakfast*, a new comedy series by Stephanie Calman. Friday, Channel 4, 9pm

Premiere: Jimmy McGovern's controversial *Priest* comes to the small screen on Saturday, BBC2, 9.05pm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,016

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

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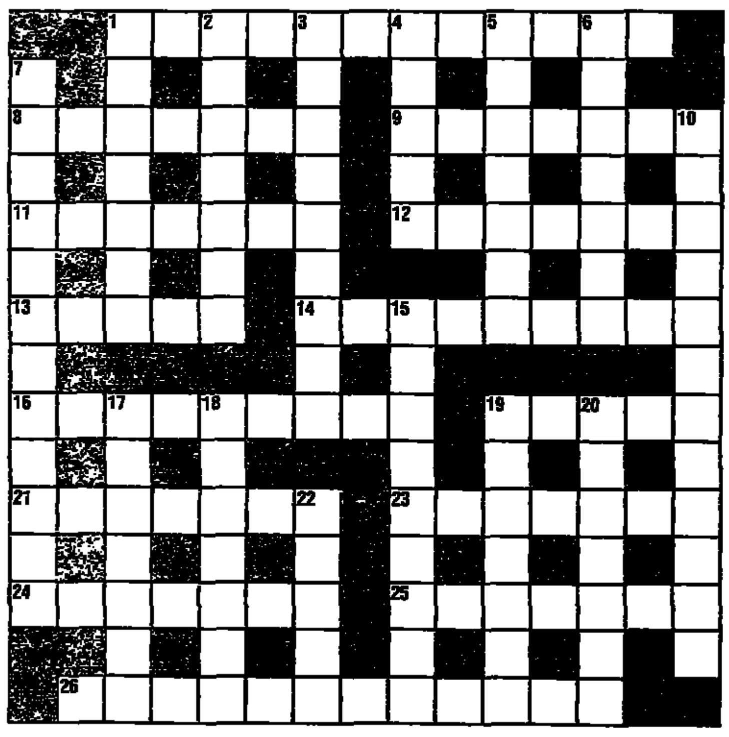

ACROSS

1 Young heroine, in the main, showing kindness and love (5,7).
8 Series of problems polished off with a will (7).
9 Take out Rex, going into bar (7).
11 In parts, like an article in French plus the German version (7).
12 Changing diapers can be a wretched experience (7).
13 Non-U dish found in antiques (5).
14 Vessels such as schooners (9).
16 Cold? Chap are it, anyhow (9).
19 Prohibit workers' organisation for African people (5).
21 O'Hara put on outsize robes (7).
23 Redhead one sportsman found less discreet (7).
24 Soldier trained to operate in foxholes (7).
25 Likewise, is English put in list? (7).
26 Magistrates interrupt one obstructing independent MP (5-7).

DOWN

1 Signal for diplomatic action (7).
2 Old brass rubber who used spirits (7).
3 Regards appropriate military order ... (4,5).
4 ... as correct for soldiers in our time (5).
5 Insects found in out-of-the-way place (7).
6 State one has no desire to enter (7).
7 You must have been mad to wear such a tight-fitting dress (6-6).
10 Member of quartet playing in the Backs of Cambridge (5-7).
15 In concert, one operating this instrument (9).
17 Suitor may be married! (7).
18 Wipers shake in storm (7).
19 Solicit wooden frame for French art (7).
20 Move one iris, making a bigger row (7).
22 Scour ground covered with brushwood (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,010

D	E	M	A	R	C	H	E	■	C	A	T	S	U	P
E	■	A	■	E	■	E	■	■	■	M	■	E	■	R
A	R	T	E	S	I	A	N	■	M	A	N	T	R	A
R	■	T	■	E	■	R	■	H	■	I	■	P	■	C
L	I	E	I	N	■	T	R	Y	I	N	G	O	U	T
Y	■	R	■	T	■	T	■	P	■	■	■	I	■	I
■	■	■	O	F	F	O	N	E	S	H	A	N	D	S
S	■	O	■	U	■	H	■	R	■	A	■	T	■	E
P	A	R	A	L	L	E	L	B	A	R	S	■	■	■
A	■	D	■	■	■	A	■	O	■	M	■	P	■	V
C	O	I	N	S	U	R	E	R	■	O	N	I	C	E
E	■	N	■	W	■	T	■	E	■	N	■	G	■	R
B	E	A	T	E	R	■	B	A	C	I	L	L	U	S
A	■	R	■	D	■	■	■	N	■	S	■	E	■	U
R	H	Y	M	E	R	■	A	S	B	E	S	T	O	S

Solution to Puzzle No 20,015

W	E	S	T	W	A	R	D	H	O	■	A	C	R	E
I	■	C	■	I	■	U	■	U	■	■	■	O	■	V
S	H	O	O	T	A	L	I	N	E	■	F	R	E	E
E	■	W	■	H	■	E	■	K	■	F	■	K	■	R
■	■	■	H	O	U	S	E	Y	H	O	U	S	E	Y
A	■	E	■	P	■	■	■	D	■	R	■	C	■	W
D	E	S	P	E	R	A	D	O	■	M	I	R	T	H
O	■	C	■	N	■	L	■	R	■	A	■	E	■	E
L	I	A	N	A	■	M	A	Y	F	L	O	W	E	R
E	■	D	■	R	■	S	■	■	■	D	■	S	■	E
S	C	R	I	M	S	H	A	N	K	E	D	■	■	■
C	■	I	■	S	■	O	■	U	■	H	■	H	■	S
E	E	L	S	■	S	U	N	D	A	Y	B	E	S	T
N	■	L	■	■	■	S	■	G	■	D	■	R	■	Y
T	I	E	D	■	D	E	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	E

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *M H L Liddle, Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear; G Mahoney, Uplands, Swansea; E A Taylor, Bognor Regis, West Sussex; M M Woodwark, Penrith, Cumbria; R E Toombs, Crewe, Cheshire.*

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East Midlands	712
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Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.23 am	4.08 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
2.01 pm	1.57 am

New moon November 22

London 4.08 pm to 7.25 am
Bristol 4.18 pm to 7.34 am
Edinburgh 4.01 pm to 7.56 am
Manchester 4.09 pm to 7.41 am
Penzance 4.35 pm to 7.41 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.25 am	4.07 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
2.28 pm	3.09 am

New moon November 22

London 4.07 pm to 7.26 am
Bristol 4.17 pm to 7.36 am
Edinburgh 4.00 pm to 7.58 am
Manchester 4.07 pm to 7.43 am
Penzance 4.34 pm to 7.43 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9.16	5.92	10.02	6.20
Aberdeen	9.57	3.66	9.58	3.80
Avonmouth	2.49	9.94	3.22	10.58
Belfast	6.54	2.86	7.08	3.13
Cardiff	2.33	9.03	3.04	9.56
Devonport	1.25	4.40	1.44	4.67
Dover	7.02	5.54	7.30	5.57
Dublin	8.03	3.48	8.15	3.62
Falmouth	1.00	4.00	1.21	4.26
Glasgow	8.27	3.63	8.17	4.07
Harwich	7.15	3.32	8.01	3.49
Holyhead	6.35	4.69	6.49	4.90
Hull	2.00	5.96	2.41	6.06
Ilfracombe	1.46	7.24	2.12	7.64
King's Lynn	2.23	4.91	3.00	5.09
TODAY	**AM**	**HT**	**PM**	**HT**
Leith	10.42	4.74	11.08	4.85
Liverpool	7.14	7.65	7.39	7.99
Lowestoft	5.06	2.33	6.26	2.30
Margate	7.54	4.16	8.37	4.27
Milford Haven	2.07	5.39	2.28	5.73
Newquay	1.10	5.15	1.35	5.40
Oban	2.32	3.14	2.31	3.41
Penzance	0.36	4.38	1.01	4.59
Portland	2.16	1.51	2.17	1.57
Portsmouth	7.19	4.14	7.39	4.03
Shoreham	7.15	5.18	7.39	5.16
Southampton	6.48	4.00	7.09	3.69
Swansea	2.13	7.43	2.34	7.86
Tees	11.59	4.49	-	-
W'ton-on-Nze	7.14	3.51	8.02	3.71

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Saunton Sands, Devon, 9C (48F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear 0.83in; highest sunshine: Torquay, Devon 8.7hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** after a frosty start, England and Wales will mostly be dry with some sunshine. The east coast, especially Norfolk, may see a few showers. North Wales and the Lake District will be more cloudy.

Northern Ireland and southern Scotland will also be mostly dry but cloudy. However, showers or longer spells of rain will affect northern Scotland and there will be more snow on the mountains.

It will be a cold day everywhere with brisk wind in the north and east.

☐ **London, S E England, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, S W England, S Wales, Central N England:** dry with some sunshine. Wind northwest, mainly light. Cold. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England, N E England:** bright spells. Mainly dry but chance of a few coastal showers. Wind northwest, moderate to fresh. Cold. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** bright at times. Some showers later. Wind northwest, light. Cold. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** mostly dry but rather cloudy. Wind northwest, light to moderate. Cold. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, N E Scotland, Argyll, N W Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain. Snow on the mountains. Wind northwest, moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **S W Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** mainly cloudy. Isolated showers on coasts. Wind northwest, mainly light. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Monday:** showers in the north and east at first, otherwise dry and cold

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

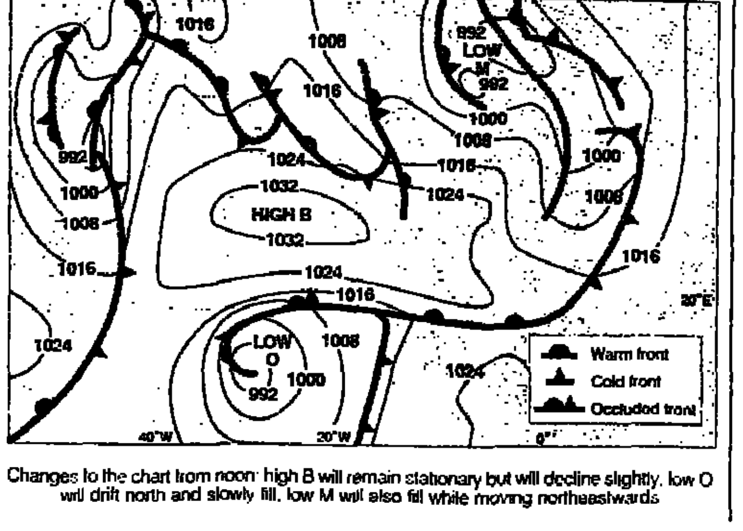
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.0	0.28	3	37	sn	London	4.4	-	5	41	b
Anglesey	7.6	0.02	6	43	s	Lowestoft	2.4	0.33	5	41	sn
Aspatria	6.9	-	5	41	s	Manchester	8.0	-	5	41	s
Aviemore	4.5	0.03	2	36	sn	Margate	2.5	0.03	5	41	h
Belfast	7.8	-	6	43	s	Minehead	7.1	-	7	45	s
Birmingham	7.6	-	4	39	s	Morecambe	7.5	-	5	41	s
Bognor R	8.5	-	5	41	s	Newcastle	4.5	x	3	37	f
Bournem'th	8.0	-	6	43	s	Newquay	0.9	0.25	7	45	sh
Bristol	7.9	-	7	45	s	Oxford	7.3	-	4	39	s
Buxton	7.8	-	2	36	s	Penzance	3.1	0.24	9	48	h
Cardiff	3.1	-	6	43	s	Plymouth	x				
Clacton	2.7	0.01	7	45	b	Poole	8.2	-	6	43	s
Cleethorpes	x					Prestatyn	x				
Colwyn Bay	1.8	-	6	43	c	Ross-o-wye	7.2	-	6	43	s
Cromer	0.7	0.35	7	45	h	Ryde	x				
Edinburgh	4.2	-	5	41	b	Salcombe	x				
Eskdalemuir	7.4	-	3	37	s	Sandown	8.3	-	6	43	s
Exmouth	8.1	-	7	45	s	Sauntn Snd	7.2	-	9	46	s
Falmouth	4.4	0.06	9	48	sh	Scarboro'	1.1	0.62	4	39	sn
Fishguard	7.1	0.02	6	43	s	Shanklin	7.0	-	5	41	s
Folkestone	7.0	0.02	5	41	s	Shrewsbury	7.6	-	5	41	s
Glasgow	7.4	-	6	43	s	Skegness	4.8	0.13	5	41	sn
Guernsey	6.4	-	9	48	s	Southend	1.9	0.07	x	x	c
Hastings	7.9	-	6	43	s	Southport	8.0	-	6	43	s
Hayling I.	8.3	-	6	43	s	Southsea	8.1	-	7	45	s
Herne Bay	2.0	0.05	4	39	b	St. Ives	x				
Hove	5.8	-	6	43	b	Stornoway	4.0	0.12	6	43	h
Hunstanton	4.0	0.06	5	41	b	Swanage	7.8	-	6	43	s
Ilfracombe	x					Teignmouth	8.4	-	8	46	s
Isle of Man	7.6	-	6	43	s	Tenby	7.8	-	6	43	s
Jersey	7.1	0.01	9	48	s	Tiree	5.1	-	7	45	h
Kinloss	0.8	-	5	41	c	Torquay	8.7	-	9	48	s
Leeds	7.7	-	5	41	s	Tynemouth	x				
Lerwick	2.3	0.38	4	39	h	Ventnor	8.4	-	7	45	s
Leuchars	5.5	0.01	4	39	sh	West-s-mare	x				
Liverpool	7.7	-	5	41	s	Weymouth	8.2	-	7	45	s

ABROAD

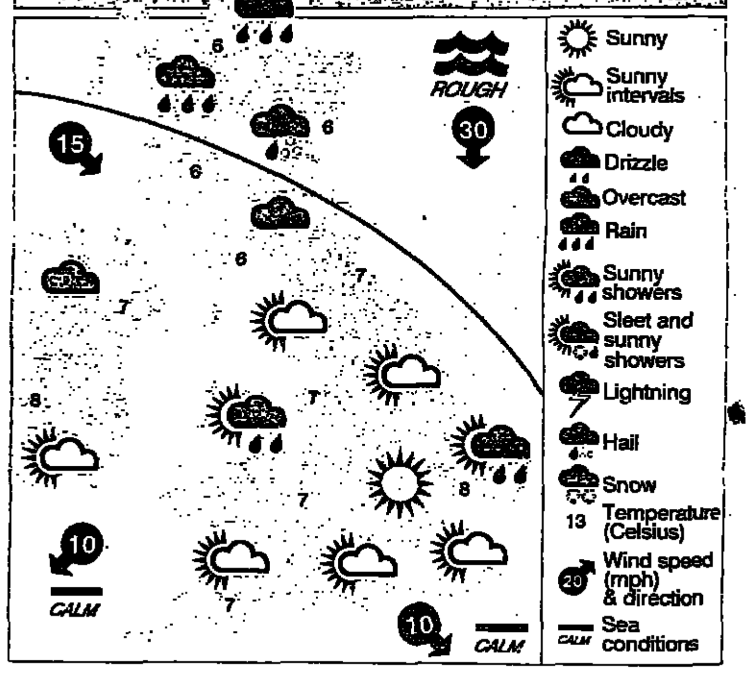
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	18	64	f	Corfu	19	66	f	Majorca	23	73	s	Rome	17	63	f
Akrotiri	22	72	s	C'phagn	-2	28	sn	Malaga	23	73	f	S Fr'sco	17	63	c
Alex'dria	22	72	f	Dublin	4	39	s	Malta	22	72	s	S Paulo	26	79	c
Algiers	28	82	s	Dubrovnik	15	59	r	Melb'rne	26	79	s	Salzburg	10	50	r
Amst'dm	5	41	f	Faro	21	70	f	Mexico C	18	64	s	Santiago	25	77	s
Athens	20	68	s	Florence	20	68	c	Miami	24	75	s	Seoul	13	55	c
B Aires	17	63	f	Frankfurt	5	41	f	Milan	14	57	c	Sing'por	27	81	f
Bahrain	25	77	s	Funchal	24	75	s	Montreal	1	34	-	St'kholm	-3	27	sn
Bangkok	32	90	s	Geneva	10	50	r	Moscow	2	36	c	Strasb'rg	9	48	c
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	22	72	c	Munich	9	48	r	Sydney	21	70	c
Barcelona	21	70	f	Helsinki	-5	23	sn	N Delhi	26	79	s	Tangier	23	73	c
Beirut	22	72	s	Hong K	25	77	s	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tel Aviv	22	72	s
Belgrade	17	63	r	Innsbrck	9	48	f	Naples	18	64	r	Tenerife	29	84	f
Berlin	3	37	s	Istanbul	17	63	s	Nice	21	70	f	Tokyo	18	64	s
Bermuda	23	73	c	Jeddah	33	91	s	Oslo	-2	28	f	Toronto	0	32	s
Biarritz	17	63	f	Jo'burg	27	81	s	Paris	9	48	f	Tunis	27	81	s
Borde'x	13	55	c	L Angels	17	63	c	Peking	12	54	s	Valencia	24	75	s
Brussels	4	39	s	L Palmas	26	79	s	Perth	24	75	s	Vanc'ver	10	50	c
Budapst	11	52	r	Le Tquet	6	43	f	Prague	3	37	sl	Venice	14	57	c
Cairo	24	75	s	Lisbon	19	66	f	Reykjavik	3	37	r	Vienna	12	54	f
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Locarno	12	54	f	Rhodes	20	68	s	Warsaw	10	50	c
Ch'church	17	63	-	Luxembg	5	41	c	Rio de J	25	77	f	Wash'ton	4	39	c
Chicago	2	36	c	Luxor	27	81	s	Rio de J	27	81	f	Wel'ngton	16	61	-
Cologne	5	41	c	Madrid	17	63	f	Riyadh	26	79	s	Zurich	8	46	r

Temperatures at midday local time. X - not available



Changes to the chart from noon: high B will remain stationary but will decline slightly, low O will drift north and slowly fill, low M will also fill while moving northeastwards

NOON TODAY



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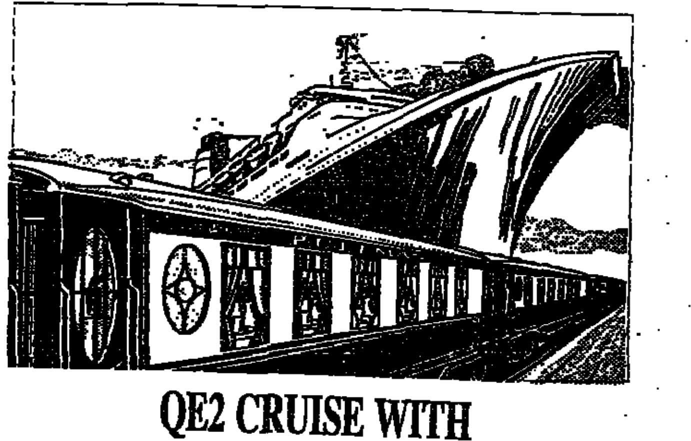

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18 1995

London Electricity's £200m 'defence' payout

By Christine Buckley

LONDON ELECTRICITY yesterday outlined a move to pay out £200 million in a special dividend, stirring speculation that the company is bracing itself to fight a bid.

One of the four remaining independent electricity companies not in bid talks, London announced the payment of 100p a share as it confirmed plans to pass on its holding in the National Grid to shareholders. The company said: "We are developing a longer-term strategy, and that is being worked out on the basis that we remain an independent company."

The strategy, details of which have not being revealed, is being shaped as London prepares for open competition in the energy market in 1998.

The company did not rule out acquiescing to a bid that was pitched high enough to be beneficial to shareholders. However, its move to pour out cash in special dividends is a classic ploy by companies to lessen their attractiveness to predators by gearing up balance sheets. In the electricity sector, the trend to use special dividends was started by Northern Electric, in its defence against Trafalgar House's bid, and adopted by Yorkshire Electricity.

But London's announcement was greeted with puzzlement in the City; the payment is not seen as sufficient to dampen interest. Angelos Anastasiou, utilities analyst with Panmure Gordon, the broker, said: "They are not paying out enough to make the company unattractive."

The special dividend from London, where Sir Bob Reid is chairman, will leave the company with a debt to equity ratio of about 60 per cent, which is a long way short of the 180 per cent that Northern racked itself up to. A further weakness in London's move is that the plans are not scheduled to be forwarded for shareholder approval until January.

In addition to the special dividend, London is also promising shareholders a hike in its normal dividend. It said that the dividend for the year to the end of March next year would be raised 20 per cent. The last dividend marked an increase of 10 per cent. Last year, London spent £100 million buying back its own shares.

☐ Changes to the Norweb board were made official yesterday. Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman of North West, and his chief executive Brian Staples will replicate their roles at Norweb.

Tempus, page 28

Budget fears sink pound

By Philip Bassett and Janet Bush

STERLING slumped to another record low yesterday as investors expressed concern that the Government will let loose on taxes and lower interest rates in a bid for re-election.

As the pound fell, the Confederation of British Industy gave a warning that the current pause in the recovery could well last for at least another six months. Nevertheless, it urged Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, not to "sacrifice" economic stability for the political imperative of tax cuts in the Budget on November 28.

Company directors yesterday called for a cut in interest rates. Ruth Lea, policy head of the Institute of Directors, said that the economy had "slowed significantly" recently and now needed the boost of a rate cut.

But Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, suggested at the Oil Industries Club annual dinner, that the Bank remained opposed to a rate cut for now. He acknowledged that October's fall in inflation was encouraging, but said that it was important not to overreact to one month's figure but to take a longer term view.

The pound hit its lowest level against the mark anda basket of currencies. It touched DM2.1735, surpassing its previous low of DM2.1755 hit on May 9. On its effective index, it closed at 82.3, the second record low of the week. The first of the week came on Wednesday when the pound's index touched 82.5.

Other elements that undermined the pound included a soft dollar, because of the current stand-off over the US budget, and the evident slowdown in the British economy. But the threat of looser fiscal and monetary policy is likely to revive the economy and could, in the longer term, be beneficial for the pound.

In its latest quarterly *Industrial Trends Survey*, the CBI last month gave a warning of a continuing slowdown, or pause, in Britain's economic recovery as business confidence fell to a three-year low and home orders dropped for the first time for two years.

Kate Barker, the CBI's chief economist, added to the warning yesterday when she told a conference on the Budget, the first organised by the TUC in the City, that this pause might well be maintained for at least the next six months.

While she maintained that growth prospects remained strong, behind her warning lies the feeling among some business leaders that, within that timescale, key economic and business indicators, such as the CBI's *Trends* Survey, may start to show most figures, including total orders and output, declining.

Ms Barker told the conference that in spite of the likely pause, there were considerable reasons for optimism next year, including no direct tax rises, headline inflation moving back down, employment rising, windfall gains from building society mergers, and Tessas maturing.

She urged Mr Clarke to adopt the CBI's "prudent" package of measures, which would allow for interest rate cuts in the new year.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, told the conference that while inflationary pressures had to be taken seriously, control of inflation could not be the only objective of economic policy regardless of its impact on output and employment.

GILL ALLEN

Pedal power: Dancer Nicole Taylor, 24, gets on her exercise bike at Railtrack's Liverpool Street Station in London, where the first public gym at a train station opened yesterday

AIB wins race for John Govett

By Patricia Tehan
Banking Correspondent

ALLIED Irish Banks is to buy John Govett, the United Kingdom fund manager owned by Govett & Co, for about £105 million. The Irish banking group is expected to announce the deal within the next fortnight. AIB is believed to have beaten Electra, the UK investment trust, to the deal.

The price is lower than the £120 million to £125 million expected in April when the sale was announced, but this is because the deal does not include Govett Asset Management, its US fund manager, which had originally been part of the package.

The price is equivalent to 3.8 per cent of John Govett's $4.3 billion of funds under management. John Govett provided 31 per cent of Govett's $59 million operating profits in the last financial year to December 31.

In April Mr Trueger said the proceeds of the sale would be used for working capital, to finance future business opportunities, and some would be returned to shareholders.

John Govett's managers, headed by Kevin Pakenham, will stay with the firm. They are to be given share incentives geared towards the performance of the business. After the sale, Govett's shareholders' funds will be equivalent to 300p per share, against last night's 228p.

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Shell to invest in N Korea

By Colin Narbrough

SHELL, the oil multinational which this week took a pounding over its role in Nigeria under the regime of General Abacha, yesterday disclosed its first investment in North Korea, the world's most oppressive communist state.

The official North Korean news agency announced that Shell Pacific Enterprises planned to invest $2 million to build an oil-storage facility and supply system at the Rajon-Sonbong free economic zone.

A Shell spokesman in London said the investment was a "very first step" for the company in North Korea. It probably would pursue more business there after building the wharf and oil-storage facility on a 1.5 hectare site.

Middleton could lose £50,000 bonus

By Jon Ashworth

PETER MIDDLETON'S dramatic exit from Lloyd's of London could have cost him a bonus worth £50,000 or more. The departing Lloyd's chief executive would have been entitled to a payment in the new year, but is now thought unlikely to receive a penny.

The Lloyd's council's compensation committee will consider the matter of bonuses in January. Mr Middleton earned a performance-related bonus of £50,000 last year, on top of a basic package of £320,000, but would need to be on the payroll in January to qualify for a 1995 bonus. He earned a bonus of £65,000 in 1993. Lloyd's said he had broken his contract and was unlikely to receive anything.

Lloyd's continued to play down speculation that Mr Middleton had been hounded out because he had grown too sympathetic with aggrieved names. Alfred Doll-Steinberg, founder of the Gooda Walker action group, said that it was totally out of character for Mr Middleton to resign with the job half done."

Mr Doll-Steinberg said Mr Middleton's rapport with dissident names may have precipitated his departure for Salomon Brothers, which he joins in January as chief executive officer of European operations. He added: "There was no doubt he agreed with everything the names were saying."

Lloyd's yesterday denied that David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, had cancelled a trip to America a week ago because he faced being arrested. He was subpoenaed after attending a conference in Chicago last month. An application for the subpoena to be quashed is due to be heard on Tuesday.

In the limelight, page 27

Success deals a blow to BBC's Pride

By Martin Waller

FIRST Delia Smith massacred a nation's cranberries. Now another runaway BBC hit has had the shoppers fighting it out in the aisles.

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a blockbuster series such as *Pride & Prejudice* is going to shift an awful lot of videos once they go on sale, particularly if the launch date coincides with the run-up to Christmas. Acknowledged everywhere except at BBC Worldwide Publishing, the arm of the corporation in charge of merchandising such spin-offs.

An initial run of just 30,000 of the videos went on sale last month and disappeared without trace. Despite stepped-up production, angry retailers have been reduced to taking mile-long lists of unhappy shoppers, but cannot guarantee deliveries before Christmas.

The success of the video has astonished all involved, despite the blanket media coverage given to the doings of Fitzwilliam Darcy and Elizabeth Bennett when they kept a nation glued to the screen twice a week.

Technicolor, the video reproduction business, owned by Carlton, the media conglomerate that also owns two ITV franchises, was given permission to subcontract *Pride and Prejudice* out to other producers on the Continent. They are now making 10,000 copies a day.

"No one had any idea that it was going to be so successful," said a BBC spokeswoman. So far, 180,000 of the videos have been shipped. But the shops are still desperate for more. "It's deeply frustrating," said a spokeswoman for W H Smith. The shortage has meant that just three copies a week are being delivered to one central London store.

"We're trying to make sure that there's an even distribution," the Smiths spokeswoman added, "we can't absolutely guarantee it, because we don't know what we will get from the BBC."

For its part, the corporation, still smarting from the revelation that some rogue two-cassette packs of the video that did reach the stores contained one cassette each from the latest and an earlier production, is hoping demand will be satisfied by the end of this month.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3609.2	(-1.6)
Yield	3.96%	
FT-SE A All share	1769.50	(+0.15)
Nikkei	18151.16	(+211.64)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4959.96	(-9.40)*
S&P Composite	597.38	(+0.04)*

US RATES

Federal Funds	$5\frac{11}{16}$%*	($5\frac{7}{8}$%)
Long Bond	$108\frac{5}{8}$*	($108\frac{7}{32}$)
Yield	6.24%*	(6.23%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	$6\frac{3}{8}$%	($6\frac{3}{8}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	$108\frac{17}{32}$	($108\frac{13}{16}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5515*	(1.5558)
London:		
$	1.5509	(1.5575)
DM	2.1733	(2.1947)
FFr	7.5070	(7.5800)
SFr	1.7607	(1.7798)
Yen	158.12	(159.16)
£ Index	82.3	(82.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4020*	(1.4085)
FFr	4.8418*	(4.8555)
SFr	1.1345*	(1.1382)
Yen	102.00*	(102.13)
$ Index	93.1	(93.2)

Tokyo close Yen 101.83

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$16.65	($16.45)

GOLD

London close	$386.55	($385.15)

* denotes midday trading price

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Camelot's cardinal sin of success

MELVYN MARCKUS

Time to pen a few words about the scourge of the British economy. Hardly the demon inflation, now tamed to a mere 3.2 per cent according to Whitehall's brand of statistics which, strangely, may not entirely concur with your own invoice experience.

Could it be, you ask fearfully, that Barclays, the clearing bank beast, has returned to its habits of the Eighties and sunk a few billion into the UK's lacklustre property sector? As somebody once said, a billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking *real* money. Mercifully, no. To the best of my knowledge, Barclays is doing no more than mark time. Might the fickle finger of fate point in the direction of Brian Quinn, the Bank of England director responsible for banking supervision in whose presence Johnson Matthey Bank, BCCI and Barings are not alluded to by pol-ite people? Perish such an impolite thought. No, dear readers, I speak not of everyday financial affairs but of a darker subject: the dread success of the National Lottery.

Should you have tears to shed for captains of industry, prepare to shed them now.

Take House of Fraser, the Army & Navy, Dickens & Jones and D H Evans department store enterprise that Mohamed Al-Fayed, the proprietor of Harrods and seeker out of Westminster sleaze, sold to the public in the spring of 1994 for some £400 million. Last September, the chairman Brian McGowan unveiled a mid-year pre-tax loss of £4.3 million, not dissimilar to the £4.5 million loss encounted for the first half of 1994-95.

The message from McGowan was that a cool £100 million per week was being diverted from the High Street into the National Lottery, a factor that had proved instrumental in driving House of Fraser into the red. House of Fraser's shares, floated at 180p, currently languish at 150p. A tragic tale because, as I am sure you will agree, had it not been for the lure of those little crossed fingers, the Army & Navy would almost certainly be teeming, like, er, never before.

The list of companies that have lost out to the National Lottery lengthens by the day. Motor World, a retailer of car parts, recently ghave warning that trading operations had fallen foul of the National Lottery *and* the long hot summer. Fewer people, shareholders learned, were interested in "climbing under their car" during a heatwave. Makes sense. Doubtless the temptation to fan themselves with lottery tickets proved irresistible.

Rank Organisation, the runner-up to Camelot in the National Lottery licence tender, has predicted that leisure spending will remain flat, other than on the lottery. Sears, the Selfridges combine, believes the lottery has impacted on its Freemans mail order operations, while Bass, the brewing combine, recently cited the lottery and (incredibly) the warm weather, as bear factors.

Publishers say the lottery has contributed to lower profits and job losses, while London & Manchester, the insurance specialist, went so far as to proclaim that the National Lottery had played its part in a 28 per cent decline in new annual premium business. Tales of woe have inevitably flowed from bookmakers, such as Ladbrokes, and pools promotors, such as Littlewoods.

Claims by House of Fraser and the like that the lottery has adversely impacted retail business to the extent of £100 million a week are interesting, not least in view of the fact that consumer spending actually rose by 0.8 per cent in the first half of this year. CBI research indicates that the lottery has a neutral effect on the retail trade. Camelot, the operator of the National Lottery, point outs that some £50 million is ploughed back into the economy each week via prize money.

Bookmakers, with an evil eye on the lottery, have reported falls in off-track betting receipts of anything up to 25 per cent. This may be the case in certain instances but it is worth noting that Customs and Excise receipts show that off-track betting sales for the first eight months of 1995 are up by 17 per cent. Littlewoods has blamed 500 job losses squarely on the National Lottery. It should be pointed out, however, that two years ago Littlewoods said jobs would be shed en masse in the pools industry due to the impact of computerisation.

Bingo operators, for their part, have reported a 13 per cent downturn in customers, seduced by the lottery. Then again, Customs & Excise returns just happen to reveal that bingo receipts rose 24.5 per cent during the first eight months of 1995.

You must have heard about what the Saturday night lottery draw — dull as it is — has done to cinema and theatre attendances. Rank recently admitted that a dearth of blockbuster films just may have contributed to lower attendances. As it happens, theatre attendances are *up* on last year. The National Lottery is now a year old. Sales have topped £4.4 billion, made up of £3.3 billion in respect of the weekly draw and £1.1 billion in respect of "instants." Some £1.2 billion has been raised for "good causes", while prizes totalled £2.1 billion, £1.5 billion in respect of the weekly draw. The Government's 12 per cent take accounts for £530 million. Over the seven-year licence period, sales are estimated at £32 billion, to raise £9 billion for "good causes."

Extrapolating from these figures, Camelot's mid-year profits for the six months to end-September last, due on Tuesday, are likely to be in the region of £23 million, post-tax, a figure which may well be repeated during the second six months.

This will presumably be Camelot's most profitable year — the operating percentage will decline as sales rise further — but, come Tuesday's profit revelation, the green-eyed critics will inevitably return to the fray.

Those celebrating the National Lottery's anniversary at Syon House this evening should bear in mind that Camelot broke the rules. If the consortium had been responsible for a Taurus, or a *Sunday Correspondent*, or a Eurotunnel-style debt mountain, all would be well. But Camelot succeeded. That just isn't how the game is supposed to be played in the UK.

Grid value halts talks on Welsh utility bid

By Christine Buckley

TALKS between the two Welsh utilities — South Wales Electricity and Welsh Water — yesterday broke down amid confusion although the pair are preparing to meet again.

Chiefs from the two companies had met at the London offices of N M Rothschild, banking advisers to the electricity company, in the morning over takeover moves made by Welsh Water. But within a few hours the meeting ended with divergent messages coming from both camps.

Swalec declared that it was disappointed with the progress of the talks, which had been called after it was revealed that Welsh Water was considering mounting a bid. Welsh said that it was unable to put a price on the table until the value of the National Grid — which will be floated on December 11 — was stripped out of the equation. Welsh said that it was only interested in making a move ex-Grid rather than cum-Grid. The Grid is jointly owned by the regional electricity companies and Swalec's policy is to return the value of its holding to shareholders.

Originally, Welsh had indicated that it was looking at a value of £10.20p per share which was calculated on the basis of a Grid holding. However, it has now declined to make an estimate. The water company, which said that it wanted any bid to be recommended by Swalec, said it was not its intention to make a firm offer price "until a market value for the National Grid could be established".

Swalec said that it was surprised at the move. Andrew Walker, chief executive, said: "We are very disappointed that they wouldn't tell us what their price was likely to be. They seem to be a long way from a proper valuation of the company."

The water company had been forced last week by the Stock Exchange to admit that it was considering a takeover after the share price of Swalec had risen. It had been widely expected that Welsh would have to increase its offer after the share price of Swalec pushed past the mark the water company had first indicated in anticipation of a rival bid being made. Yesterday, it stood at £10.30, falling 1p on news of the abandoned talks.

The two groups are expected to meet again late next week, when a grey market, involving conditional trading, will have started in Grid shares. The grey market will open after the prospectus for the Grid is issued on Wednesday. Such trading will be an important pointer to the market value of the shares when they open for full trading on December 11.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hewlett Packard rises to a record

HEWLETT PACKARD, the US printers and computers company, overcame industry-wide component shortages to record year-end profits of $2.4 billion, up more than 50 per cent. Fourth-quarter profits rose by 42 per cent, to $678 million, and turnover by 29 per cent, to $9 billion. The year's turnover grew 26 per cent, to $31.5 billion, with the computer division registering growth of 28 per cent, to $25 billion.

The company reported continuing high demand for its products, but added a note of caution about competitive pressures in the industry. In the UK, revenue grew by 30 per cent and exports were up by 59 per cent. **Tempus, page 28**

More jobs for Scotland

SHIN-ETSU HANDOTAI, a subsidiary of Shin-Etsu Chemicals of Japan, is to spend £160 million to expand production at a polished-wafer plant for integrated circuits at its existing factory at Livingstone, Lothian. The announcement of the investment, which will create an extra 235 jobs, came only days after the news that Chunghwa Picture Tube Company is to invest £260 million in a new television tube plant at Mossed, Lanarkshire, likely to generate 3,300 jobs.

Australia strike threat

AUSTRALIA is on the brink of a national general strike after talks between CRA, the British-owned mining company, and the country's powerful unions broke down over the issue of individual contracts for employees. Unions across the country are preparing to stop work from next week in support of 75 miners at CRA's bauxite mine, who want to keep collective bargaining agreements. Workers at ports and coal mines have already gone on strike.

Black Arrow slips

HALF-YEAR profits at Black Arrow, the furniture and leasing company, slipped 20 per cent to £893,000 as the company struggled in a slack commercial property market. Trading over the half-year had proved slightly stronger than anticipated in July, when Black Arrow issued a profits warning. Arnold Edwards, chairman, said the market remained erratic. The share price slipped back 3p to 41p. The interim was maintained at 1p, due on January 3.

Chester Water ahead

CHESTER WATER, the small independent water company serving the Chester area, lifted turnover by just 1.4 per cent in its half-year to September 30 after being squeezed by harsher rules on pricing. Applying RPI-1, it achieved sales of £3.12 million although demand reached record levels. The company is engaged on a £1.9 million project to modernise its infrastructure. Pre-tax profits rose by 5.6 per cent, to £1.3 million. The 2.12p interim dividend is 8.7 per cent up.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.31	2.05
Austria Sch	16.41	14.91
Belgium Fr	48.02	43.72
Canada $	2.218	2.056
Cyprus Cyp£	0.739	0.684
Denmark Kr	9.10	8.30
Finland Mkk	7.10	6.45
France Fr	7.98	7.31
Germany Dm	2.34	2.13
Greece Dr	378.27	353.27
Hong Kong $	12.67	11.67
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1200	4.4700
Italy Lira	2581.00	2426.00
Japan Yen	172.93	156.93
Malta	0.587	0.532
Netherlds Gld	2.606	2.376
New Zealand $	2.54	2.32
Norway Kr	10.26	9.46
Portugal Esc	240.50	222.00
S Africa Rd	ref	5.35
Spain Pta	195.00	182.00
Sweden Kr	10.88	10.08
Switzerland Fr	1.91	1.73
Turkey Lira	refer	78113.0
USA $	1.654	1.524

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

UNDER FIRE

"For so long a faceless Anglo-Dutch corporation, Shell has suddenly become the corporate bad guy. First came Brent Spar, now the row over its involvement in Nigeria . . ."

Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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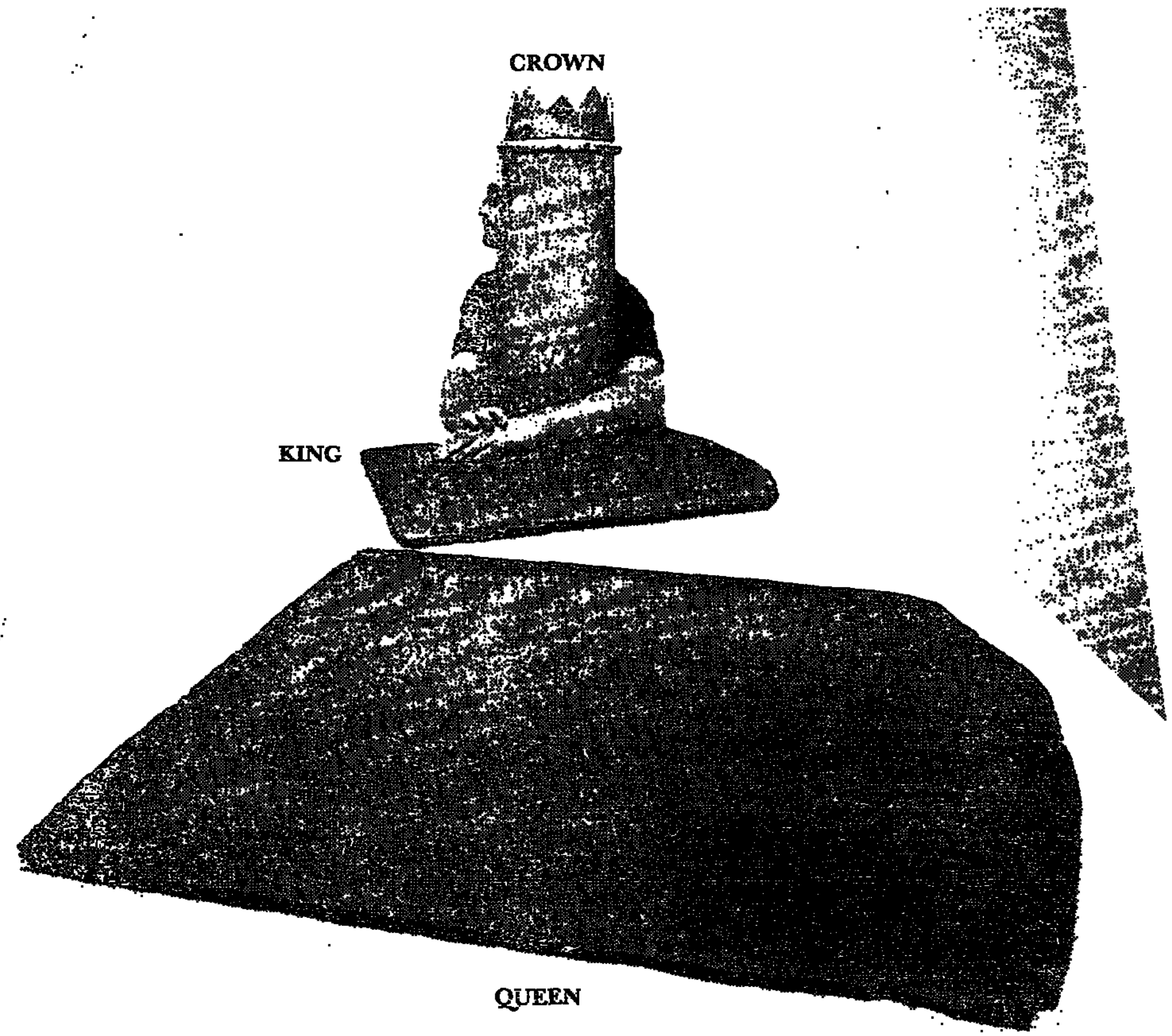

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: RON SANDLER

Thrust into the limelight at Lloyd's

With the departure of Peter Middleton, the past few days have been a frenetic whirl of activity for the new chief executive, says **Jon Ashworth**

JAMES MORGAN

Ron Sandler says that he is, like Peter Middleton before him, committed to achieving a "fair, just, and honourable settlement" for names

Ron Sandler's week was going quite well until about 6pm on Wednesday. Three days earlier, he had been formally offered the job of chief executive of Lloyd's of London — not a bad deal for a 43-year-old man known mainly for turning round moneybroking firms. He probably suspected that the top job was his for the taking, but could not have imagined that the glory would be thrust upon him after only eight months at Lime Street.

Peter Middleton's resignation had been scheduled to be announced on Thursday, but a single telephone call to the Lloyd's press office threw the plans into disarray. The news had leaked to a national newspaper, forcing Lloyd's into an undignified scramble as it attempted to limit the damage. Sandler found himself thrust into the limelight a little earlier than he had anticipated.

The past two days have been a frenetic whirl of activity for Sandler, who was recruited in March to work alongside Middleton in developing the Lloyd's reconstruction and renewal (R&R) programme. His appointment was ratified at a council meeting on Thursday, and he embarked on a frantic round of press interviews and meetings. The weeks ahead are not going to get any easier.

> The weeks ahead are not going to get any easier

David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, was told of Middleton's decision to take up a senior post with Salomon Brothers just over a week ago, leaving little time to set the succession in train. Sandler accepts that Middleton's loss is a great one. "Unquestionably, we have lost a very significant set of hands at the pump," he says. "But Peter has been most focused on issues associated with Sir Adam Ridley's names' committee, with action group liaison in general, and with the negotiations with the E&O [Errors and Omissions] underwriters. Those are the three areas in which Peter has, if you like, the lead role, and I have supported him in that role. In other parts of R&R, I've had the lead role and he has supported me.

"I can't sit here and pretend that losing Peter's experience, his skills, is not a setback. It is, because he has been working with the action groups for a considerable period of time. He has built up a level of understanding and a level of rapport which it will be hard, in the first instance, to duplicate. Having said that, I've been very close to him for quite some months now on these issues."

Middleton has agreed to offer every assistance to Sandler. "Peter has given me every assurance that he will make whatever time I need available to me. There is no acrimony. We are getting on with the job."

Sandler accepts that he has not enjoyed as high a profile as Middleton in negotiations with the litigating names. But he has sat in on many of the meetings and says a solid foundation exists. "There are still some very important further discussions to take place with, for example, the action groups, but we're not starting with a clean sheet of paper. The basic elements of the settlement structure are in place.

"Yes, it is necessary to bring that process of understanding along, and it is also necessary to ensure that the discussions are taken to a satisfactory conclusion. But it's not that I'm starting from scratch. We're working off a well established platform."

Sandler insists there is "absolutely no question" of Middleton quitting because the settlement process was in jeopardy. "Peter is going to Salomon because he was offered what is obviously a very attractive and well-remunerated position. That is the long and the short of it." Middleton is rumoured to have accepted a package worth $1 million a year with Salomon Brothers, which is intent on building its European operations.

Sandler was born in Durban, South Africa, and grew up in Bulawayo, Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. He took a degree in engineering at Queens' College, Cambridge, in 1974, and followed that up with an MBA from Stamford University. He ran the Los Angeles office of Boston Consulting, the management consultant, and subsequently switched to the rival firm of Booz Allen, running the London office. He left in 1988 to set up his own practice. "The idea of another 20 or 30 years in management consulting I found, frankly, a horrifying prospect." In 1990, he was called in by Citibank to replace Gary Klesch as chairman of Quadrex Holdings and to turn round Martin-Bierbaum Group, the company's moneybroking subsidiary. He did the same for Exco, the moneybroker formerly owned by British & Commonwealth, doubling profits and taking the firm to the stock market in the summer of 1994. He resigned as chief executive after a disagreement over strategy and was subsequently approached about the Lloyd's job. He lives with his wife, Susan, and their sons, Ben, 14, and Luke, 12, in Wimbledon, southwest London.

Sandler will not actually admit that he was hired to succeed Middleton, but concedes: "Any responsible senior executive would be concerned about succession. I don't know whether that was Peter's principal concern when he approached me. I think it would have been quite reasonable for that to have been one aspect of what he was thinking about."

He soon found himself heavily involved in developing the Lloyd's reconstruction plan, details of which were published in May. Since then, his role has shifted to overseeing management of the plan: making sure the right issues are addressed, and liaising between the various projects. He intends to remain focused on the task in hand. "We now have everything intact and know exactly what we're doing," he says.

Sandler could not help being caught up in the pandemonium that followed Middleton's unexpected resignation. He was among a small group of Lloyd's players to be informed of the move, and joined Lloyd's council members and other key staff at a meeting on Sunday evening. Rowland recommended that Sandler should succeed Middleton. The nominations committee of the Lloyd's council supported the move the next day.

Middleton, it emerges, was out of Britain while all this was going on. He flew to Texas to attend a speaking engagement in Rowland's place and did not return until Wednesday morning. "There was no intent to keep Peter out of the way as such, but David's failure to fulfil a speaking engagement could be very easily misinterpreted. Peter was the obvious candidate."

Sandler expects to devote much time to reassuring market professionals and names alike. "It's a very legitimate question for people to ask," he says, firing up a Marlboro Light. "Why did Peter go? We've given them the answer. He left because he received an offer of a job which he felt he could not turn down."

Middleton does not start his new job until January, but Sandler insists that he could not have remained after the news had broken. "Lloyd's needs clear, decisive, leadership. It's very difficult for Peter to play a lead role in negotiations and to lead firmly aspects of the corporation when it is known that he is leaving. It is not possible to exercise effective leadership in those circumstances." He insists that talk of rifts and conspiracies is wide of the mark. "It's easy to write knocking copy and look to see shadows, but frankly none exist here." The next key point in the Lloyd's timetable is in February, when detailed information on the proposed £2.8 billion settlement offer will be put to the names. A vote on a proposed levy on names will follow in March. Names will be asked to express their views on the proposals, although exactly how they will do so has yet to be worked out.

Lloyd's had hoped to hold the levy vote before Christmas, but was obliged to postpone it because of concern about the reliability of some of the indicative statements about how much names will have to contribute. Sandler insists further delays are unlikely. "By the spring of next year, individual names will know exactly how much they stand to receive from the settlement package in return for giving up rights to litigate. We will have reliable numbers by February."

Final statements should follow by the end of May, paving the way for a summer of tedium. Sandler has no apologies. "One doesn't transfer £15 billion around a system, including payments from many names around the world, overnight."

Sandler prepares for his first full week in the job with a final word of reassurance. "The R&R programme is on track," he says. "I am as committed as my predecessor was to arriving at a fair, and just, and honourable settlement for the names. I recognise, as he did, the hardship which very many names at Lloyd's have suffered in recent years. I am as keen as any to bring that to an end."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Restoration of past glories adds to company's presence

Lindsay Cook discovers what drives a consultancy to rebuild old vehicles

In a garage on the outskirts of Shoreham-by-Sea in Sussex a labour of love is under way. A 1923 Le Zèbre open tourer found in Belgium is being restored using the original drawings by a team from Ricardo, the engineering consultancy.

It is the third such project carried out by the company, founded by Sir Harry Ricardo 80 years ago to design tank engines that did not smoke. In 1915, it was not an environmental concern that prompted the work but the serious need to reduce vehicle emissions so that the enemy could not see tanks and attack them.

Sir Harry went on to use his skills designing and developing engines for car manufacturers around the world. He designed the first diesel engine for a car. That engine was the first restoration project undertaken by Ricardo. The engine for a 1935 Citroën Rosalie was found in a store and the company set to finding a car to put it in. "We found exactly the same model and restored it," said Christopher Ross, Ricardo's chief executive.

For a long time, Mercedes had claimed to be the first manufacturer of a diesel passenger car, but records at Shoreham established that the Ricardo-engined Citroën beat it by a year.

A pre-production batch of 75 of the cars were sold to customers in 1935, making them the first diesel cars in regular production.

Ricardo still has all the original correspondence files and test records.

Next came a 1924 Triumph-Ricardo motorcycle, the machine that brought Sir Harry's name to prominence for the first time, and waiting to be worked on next summer is the only four-wheel-drive car to win a grand prix. The Ferguson P99 racing car was driven to victory in 1961 by Stirling Moss. The company would like to see it race again, possibly with Stirling at the wheel once more.

Mr Ross said the cost of restoring Le Zèbre car would be £40,000, and that the Citroën Rosalie cost £15,000 and the motorcycle £5,000 to £6,000. "It is a pretty modest investment to recreate the history of the company. Clients come from all over the world and love to sit in the vehicles.

"We are not doing it to make money but we are aware that we are spending shareholders' money and these are appreciating assets." The company sponsors two Formula One teams, and finds that developments produced to help the teams can be transferred to the road cars it works on.

Each year it enters some of its young graduates in a charity race based on *The Italian Job*, the film starring Michael Caine.

Like the film of an audacious gold robbery using three Mini cars, the race involves 50 or 60 Minis setting off from Sussex and driving to Italy and back.

The teams collect some of the new vintage wine from the Trentino region on the way and raise up to £100,000.

"We want to encourage them to have fun and always have lots of volunteers to take part," said Mr Ross.

This year, Chris Leathers, Christine Blatt, Joella Wilmot and Douglas Nevill from Ricardo took part. The race was started in July 1990, when four Minis retraced the steps of the robbers in the film. Ricardo employs 1,600 and is the largest engineering consulting company, working for most of the world's leading car manufacturers.

"Our real assets are our people. It is a people company," said Mr Ross.

The company's annual report, unusually, features several of the graduates in its photographs, alongside some of the technical developments and projects of which it is proud. It looks to the future while Mr Ross makes sure that the company and its clients pay due respect to its heritage.

Christine Blatt, a young engineer at Ricardo, with some of the restored vehicles

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DAILY EXPRESS, 1st NOVEMBER 1995

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Fall-out from price war continues to hurt stores

SHARES of the supermarket chains were marked down amid fears of an escalation of the food-price war in the run-up to Christmas.

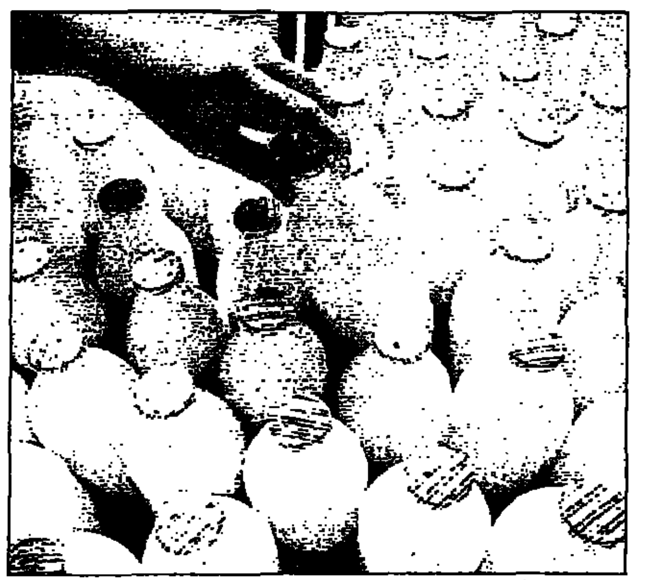
Institutional sellers made their move on the back of reports that Tesco, having failed to force through price rises on milk, was threatening to undercut its main rivals. Brokers said such a move would result in a further turn of the screw on margins and would put profits under further pressure.

Trading news from the food retailers in recent weeks has revealed the effect that the price war is having on profits.

Argyll, the Safeway stores group, which unveils half-year figures at the end of the month, dropped 16p to 298p as almost 3.5 million changed hands. Brokers say they fear the figures will reveal a further decline in market conditions.

Even **Tesco**, which has been increasing market share of late, came under pressure *with the share price dropping 12½p to 283½p.*

Losses were also recorded in **J Sainsbury**, 11p to 382p, **Asda**, *4p to 99½p*, **Kwik Save**, 14p to 596p, and **Wm Morrison Supermarkets**, 4½p to 146½p.



Tesco may undercut rivals after failing to raise milk prices

The rest of the equity market had a tired look about it with this week's record-breaking run coming to an end. Early on, the market had touched an all-time high of 3,626.7 as traders unravelled positions ahead of the expiry of the November options. But subsequent profit-taking mixed with a certain amount of apathy left the FT-SE 100 index nursing a fall of 1.6 at 3,609.2 at the close. Turnover was a modest 631 million shares. The rise on the week was 85.8.

Among leaders, **Shell** rose 18½p to 787½p after buying 500,000 of its own shares for the Sharesave Scheme relating to employee options. **Tomkins** rose 9½p to 262p.

But a profits downgrading left **Sears** 2p easier at 100p. Merrill Lynch, the broker, has cut its estimate for the current year by £15 million to £115 million.

There was further gloom for the papermakers with **Bunzl** dropping 8½p to 179½p after Merrill Lynch and BZW, a rival broker, turned negative. **Rexam** lost another 13p at 372p after this week's sell recommendation from SBC Warburg, the broker. Earlier this week, shares of **Arjo Wiggins** took a knock after issuing a profits warning. The price shed a further 2½p at 192½p.

South Wales Electricity dropped 1p to £10.30 after initial bid talks with Welsh Water failed to produce any *concrete details. Andrew Melrose, chief executive of Swalec,* expressed disappointment at Welsh Water's reluctance to even confirm whether it was going to bid, let alone discuss terms.

Welsh Water, unmoved at 699p, said that talks had been delayed pending the National Grid's flotation and is insisting that Swalec recommends any offer it decides to make.

Shareholders in **London Electricity** can look forward to 100p special dividend and a share consolidation as part of the group's distribution of its stake in the National Grid. The group expects to increase last year's dividend of 29p by about 20 per cent. Shares were up 19p at 933p.

More bad news for shareholders of **EuroDollar**, *the car rental group, with pre-tax profits in the first six months plunging from £8.2 million to £2.4 million. The company* gave warning that profits in the second half will fall short of those achieved in the first half.

It blamed a sharp rise in vehicle-holding costs and higher insurance premiums. Naturally enough, the shares tumbled 39p to a low of 68p.

By contrast, one of the best moves on the day was recorded in **Unipalm**, the Internet service provider, which is currently on the receiving end of a lucrative offer from UUNET, the Nasdaq-quoted investment technology specialist. Unipalm surged 100p to 855p after learning that the UUNET share price had climbed above $88 a share overnight.

Redrow, the housebuilder, rose 4p *to* 128p despite a cautious view of prospects. Stephen Morgan, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the new homes industry had experienced difficult trading conditions.

He said much would depend on the outcome of the Budget.

Redland continued to make the most of a buy circular published this week by Kleinwort Benson, the broker, with a rise of 11p to 370p.

Vero Group made an encouraging start in first-time trading. Shares in the electronic equipment group were offered at 220p and touched a peak of 280p before settling at 275p, a premium of 55p. Almost 13 million shares had changed hands by the close of business.

Mayborn Group climbed 6p to a peak of 246p after revealing plans of a two-for-15 rights issue at 210p. The £5.3 *million raised from the issue* will be used to expand its baby products and fabric dyes interests. As a result of the new shares being issued, the Samuel family's holding will be reduced from 60 per cent to 53 per cent.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices opened lower on the back of weaker German bunds. The market continued drifting throughout the session before closing at its low for the day after profit-takers moved in to take advantage of this week's gains which stretched to £1½ in places.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt fell £⅜ to £108⁷⁄₁₆ as a total of 43,000 contracts were completed.

Among the conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 retreated £⁹⁄₃₂ to finish at £100¹¹⁄₁₆, while, at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 closed £³⁄₁₆ lower at £103¹⁹⁄₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Volatility from the double-witching expiry of options and a reluctance by investors after the rally of the two previous sessions temporarily halted the Dow Jones industrial average's advance to 5,000. At midday it was down 9.40 points at 4,959.96.

Speculative buying lifted Astec (BSR) 7p to a new high of 130p as more than 1 million shares changed hands. Word is Emerson Electric, which already owns almost 50 per cent of the shares, is poised to bid 160p. It may face opposition. NatWest Securities says the shares are worth at least 140p short term.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Unipalm	865p	+155p	Improving terms from UUNET
EuroDollar	68p	-48p	Profits down, worse to come
Rexam	372p	-33p	Warburg sell recommendation
Firecrest	203p	+45p	Link-up with Energis on Internet
Zeneca	£12.96p	+58p	Bid speculation
Cortecs International	147p	+31p	Result of clinical trials
Geest	117p	-25p	Profits warning
On Demand Information		+30p	Deal with BT
Greenway	71p	-26p	Profits down, tougher trading

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4959.96 (-9.40)
S&P Composite	597.38 (+0.04)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18151.16 (+211.64)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9287.90 (-79.75)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	460.41 (+0.18)
Sydney:	
AO	2119.7 (+13.6)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2201.28 (+0.56)
Singapore:	
Straits	2077.41 (-11.88)
Brussels:	
General	7919.97 (+14.44)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1890.52 (-14.62)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	692.80 (-1.70)
London:	
FT 30	2638.9 (-2.9)
FT 100	3609.2 (-1.6)
FT-SE Mid 250	3964.5 (+3.7)
FT-SE-A 350	1793.9 (-0.3)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1432.65 (+0.28)
FT A All-Share	1769.50 (+0.15)
FT Non Financials	1870.55 (-0.74)
FT Fixed Interest	113.53 (+0.44)
FT Govt Secs	94.73 (-0.19)
Bargains	35552
SEAQ Volume	684.5m
USM (Datastrm)	187.97 (+1.09)
US$	1.5516 (-0.0037)
German Mark	2.1784 (-0.0141)
Exchange Index	82.3 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1674
£:SDR	1.0401
RPI	149.8 Oct (3.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	148.7 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Asian Smllr	92	...
Abtrust Sml Cos Wts	32½	...
Arlon Props	9	...
BZW Eqts Tesco Elts	289	- 10
Benfield & Rea	102	...
Chartwell Intl	64	...
Creos Intl	122	...
David Glass (60)	70	...
Entrprse Inns (145)	148	+ ½
Guinness Flight	91	...
Guinness Flight U	191	...
Guinness Flight W	10	...
Heritage Baths (125)	156	+ 1
Intl Greetings	503	...
MultiMedia (45)	65	...
Northern Venture	97	...
Perp UK Sml C (100)	99	...
Vero Group	276½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Frport Leis n/p (100)	15	...
Pilkington n/p (155)	46	...
Quality SP n/p (535)	122	+ 15
Rhino Group n/p (8)	5	...
Superscape n/p (330)	89	+ 4
Wellington U n/p (100)	½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Osborne & Little	438p (+58p)
Unipalm	865p (+110p)
Euro Disney	181p (+12p)
Marshalls	157p (+10p)
Rosebys	192p (+10p)
Ashtead	507p (+25p)
BICC	276p (+11p)
Yates Bros	303p (+11p)
Airflow Stream	285p (+10p)
Redland	370p (+11p)
Psion	640p (+17p)
FALLS:	
Eurodollar	68p (-39p)
Epwin	223p (-32p)
Argyll	298p (-16p)
MAID	301p (-15p)
Williams Hldg	334p (-12p)
REXAM	372p (-13p)
J Sainsbury	382p (-11p)
Kwik Save	596p (-14p)
HSBC	940p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 40

TEMPUS

London's last stand

IF GENERAL CUSTER had known of special dividends, he, too, might have thrown them down in a desperate effort to deter aggressors. However, unless he had possessed a regiment of them, they would not have changed his fate.

There is a stampede, too, for regional electricity companies, with their cash reserves and cash-generating ability. However, as they fall prey to a posse of bidders, one by one, it is becoming the fashion to throw benefits back to shareholders. Such calculated bleeding of resources is intended to render them less attractive as bid targets. The higher the gearing, the less advantage in a takeover.

Northern Electric started the trend, gearing itself to the hilt as it fended off the hapless Trafalgar House, which ironically kicked off the electricity sector bid frenzy. Northern made its defence convincingly, pouring out cash to its shareholders and racking up gearing to about 180 per cent. Yorkshire, too, has gone for medical bleeding on a big scale.

However, the action by London is curious. The 100p a share dividend, which will cost the company about £200 million, will prove a weak defence unlikely to deter a determined bidder. Its gearing will rise to about 60 per cent, which would be easily manageable for a bidder backed by a reasonable amount of cash. Such a company could be a deep-pocketed US utility. They have a keen appetite and face profit-capping regulations at home, and have the money to spend.

With so few electricity companies left on the shelf and predators still keen for battle, the halfway dividend by London could be seen as almost a provocation.

Stock markets

ANYONE who doubts that Wall Street and London have moved in parallel should look closely at the accompanying chart. As of last night Wall Street had outperformed London, but not to a large degree.

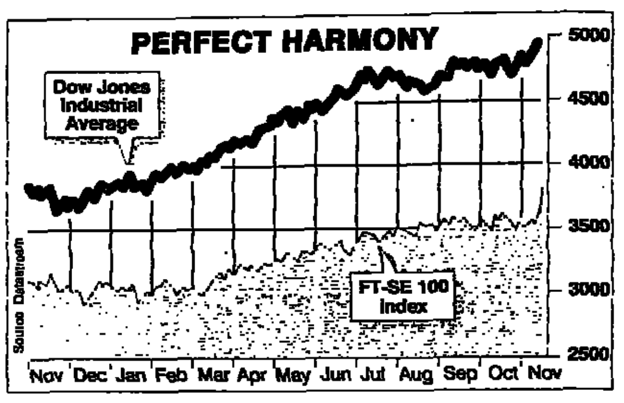
The past week has seen markets on both sides of the Atlantic at record highs. Yet America is in the middle of a Budget impasse.

Markets always look ahead, however, and Wall Street dealers bought stock in droves through the week on hopes of an interest cut being nodded through by central bankers at the Fed once the political Budget deadlock is broken.

In London dealers are buying because they also think Kenneth Clarke is going to cut interest rates and that he will also get lucky in his Budget. Inflation behaved itself this week and the PSBR figures demonstrate good corporate tax receipts which in turn help vote catching tax cuts.

It's a shame to spoil the party but this column on several occasions in the past two weeks has detected the hints of a cyclical downturn at our leading industrial companies — strenuously denied by the companies themselves, of course.

But it is still a tough world out there in industry. Yesterday's late fall in Asda shares on fears of a food price war more accurately captures present market sentiment — even if the Asda move was only precipitated by this week's trauma at Geest.



Hewlett Packard

HEWLETT PACKARD has always been seen as the maiden aunt of the computer industry — old-fashioned and financially upright. The company lacks the vision of Microsoft, the new-age style of Apple and the sheer size of IBM, and seems to sit uncomfortably in such a fast-moving sector.

However, HP is proving that even in computing, the conservative business virtues of keeping costs under control and making certain that you can deliver good products on time, work. Its 100,000-strong worldwide workforce has barely grown in three years, even as turnover has doubled. HP is now number three in the world, a position achieved, as Lewis E. Platt, chairman, said yesterday, by consistency and balance.

One worry remains, that HP will be wrong-footed by a new development. The buzz this year is the "box", a simple computer system using networks and a remote central computer to access and store programmes. The system's prophets are pronouncing the pc dead, just as HP has launched headlong into that market.

Even if the box succeeds — and it remains a concept — there is no reason to believe that HP would go the way of IBM, which misjudged the rise of the pc.

HP's success has been founded on its printers, and the box will not remove the need for a printer attachment. Indeed, if the box expands the market, HP can only benefit.

Unipalm

SHARES in Unipalm have surged because of a rise in the price of UUNET, the US group making a bid for Britain's largest Internet access provider. Continued demand for shares in Unipalm, UUNET and a host of others demonstrates that anything with the word "net" in the title is flavour of the month.

Interest in the Internet could surge if preliminary talk of a new generation of computers that would perform by drawing software and data from the Internet comes to fruition.

UUNET has already received 90.54 per cent acceptances and its offer for Unipalm remains open until further notice. Last month's complex offer was worth 450p a share, initially valuing Unipalm at £97 million. Unipalm shares surged 110p to 865p yesterday — more than eight times the flotation price of 100p in March 1994. The valuation demonstrates the current uncertainty on how to value some technology-related stocks, as well as prospects for the Internet. A host of other technology companies have enjoyed similar gains, but investors should be wary because it could all end in tears. Now may be a good time to take profits.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	935-934	Mar	1046-1045
Mar	972-971	May	1055-1056
May	990-988	Jul	unq
Jul	1008-1007	Sep	...
Sep	1026-1025		
Dec	1038-1035	Volume: 3750	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Nov	2485-2470	Jul	2090-2084
Jan	2308-2303	Sep	2040-2030
Mar	2220-2218	Nov	2010-1990
May	2145-2142	Volume: 2228	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	296.4-95.0
Spot: 389.5		Dec	288.4-86.9
Mar	245.0-44.5	Mar	286.9-85.1
May	334.5-34.0	May	290.2-87.1
Aug	325.9-24.8	Volume: 1450	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 16

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	102.98	108.48	126.90
(+/-)	+1.91	-1.29	-2.74
Eng/Wales:	103.04	109.04	126.39
(+/-)	+1.84	-1.18	-3.07
(%)	-1.0	-10.0	-42.0
Scotland:	97.31	104.26	129.07
(+/-)	+7.45	-2.58	-1.60
(%)	-13.0	-23.0	-21.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.05	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Jan)	16.90	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Feb)	16.65	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	18.10	+0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	17.85	+0.35

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 188 (+2)	O: 190 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	160 (+3)	161 (+3)
Non EEC 1H Dec	161 (+4)	162 (+4)
Non EEC 1H Jan	160 (+2)	161 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	85 (+1)	88 (+2)
Naphtha	146 (n/c)	148 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	157.50-57.75	Mar	153.00-53.25
Jan	156.25-56.50	Apr	151.25-51.50
Feb	155.00-55.25	Vol: 21117	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	16.87-16.88	Apr	16.22-16.23
Feb	16.60-16.62	May	16.08-16.10
Mar	16.39-16.40	Vol: 30367	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Nov	127.00	Nov	117.00
Jan	128.35	Jan	118.75
Mar	130.30	Mar	120.90
May	132.30	May	123.25
Jul	134.40	Sep	111.25
Volume: 559		Volume: 89	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	270.0
Apr	260.0	261.5
May	unq	305.0
	Volume: 84	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)

Dec 109.25-109.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Nov 95	1780	1760	1775
Dec 95	1705	1665	1690
Jan 96	1625	1600	1620
Apr 96	1600	1575	1590
Vol: 491 lots		Open interest: 3947	

Index 1746 +18

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2995.0-3000.0	2748.0-2750.0	1921125
Lead ($/tonne)	734.00-735.00	709.00-709.50	189075
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1031.5-1032.0	1054.0-1055.0	417850
Tin ($/tonne)	6385.0-6390.0	6424.0-6425.0	22340
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1642.0-1643.0	1679.0-1679.5	1357600
Nickel ($/tonne)	8430.0-8440.0	8560.0-8565.0	95262

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Dom	500	13	23	28	21	25	33
(*500)	550	1	8	11	65	63	68
Argyll	300	12	20	24	11	16	22
(*301)	330	3	8	12	33	35	40
ASDA	100	5	8	11	4	6	7
(*100)	110	2	4	7	11	12	13
Boots	550	33	48	56	6	12	19
(*571)	600	10	21	29	31	30	43
Br Airways	460	25	38	45	9	14	21
(*472)	500	7	18	25	31	35	41
BP	460	37	45	51	2	8	11
(*493)	500	11	21	28	16	23	28
Br Steel	160	8	14	16	5	9	12
(*166)	180	1	6	8	18	20	24
C & W	390	33	45	52	5	11	17
(*417)	420	15	28	35	17	24	30
CU	600	44	55	62	8	22	27
(*628)	650	17	27	37	31	49	53
ICI	750	47	57	68	8	22	27
(*780)	800	19	29	42	29	48	52
Kingfshr	500	29	43	48	10	21	28
(*514)	550	6	18	24	40	49	56
Land Sec	550	44	55	60	3	6	14
(*593)	600	11	23	29	22	26	37
M & S	430	31	42	47	3	7	12
(*444)	460	8	18	24	20	23	30
Nat West	650	47	57	69	9	24	31
(*681)	700	20	31	44	30	49	57
Sainsbury	360	31	41	44	2	5	10
(*383)	390	11	22	26	12	16	23
Shell	750	47	59	63	3	13	16
(*782)	800	14	27	34	21	34	39
Smkl Bch	650	49	63	73	6	14	18
(*691)	700	18	33	44	25	35	39
Storehse	300	21	28	29	4	8	12
(*316)	330	5	13	20	20	23	27
Trafalgar	20	3	5	7	1	3	4
(*21)	25	1	4	6	5	6	7
Unilever	1200	57	78	89	10	23	29
(*1245)	1250	25	47	60	29	45	51
Zeneca	1300	59	84	110	40	71	81
(*1300)	1350	37	61	86	68	99	109
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Grnd Met	420	22	30	46	14	17	22
(*430)	460	13	20	27	36	39	43
Ladbroke	120	15	16	19	4	6	7
(*127)	130	10	11	14	7	11	12
Utd Bisc	260	17	22	28	12	17	21
(*261)	280	9	14	20	23	29	33

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	460	41	54	59	3	6	11
(*498)	500	14	29	34	16	21	26
Thames W	550	27	45	53	13	19	32
(*599)	600	6	25	29	44	46	60
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
BAT Ind	550	31	39	45	20	31	38
(*553)	600	12	19	25	51	63	69
BTR	330	16	19	24	8	14	17
(*333)	360	5	7	11	27	33	36
Br Aero	700	60	72	90	17	27	34
(*732)	750	32	46	63	39	50	57
Br Telcm	360	14	20	26	14	16	22
(*361)	390	4	9	14	37	37	41
Cadbury	500	61	65	74	7	15	18
(*545)	550	30	35	46	25	35	39
Guinness	460	27	34	41	12	19	23
(*470)	500	9	15	23	34	42	45
GEC	300	29	36	40	3	6	10
(*324)	330	11	17	22	15	18	23
Hanson	191	7	—	—	9	—	—
(*192)	211	2	—	—	24	—	—
LASMO	140	21	24	28	2	4	5
(*157)	160	9	12	16	9	12	14
Lucas	180	21	25	29	3	6	7
(*195)	200	9	14	18	11	14	16
Pilkingtn	191	17	22	26	5	6	10
(*199)	210	5	12	16	15	16	20
Prudential	420	29	31	37	15	24	28
(*423)	460	9	15	20	39	49	52
Redland	360	23	31	35	10	19	21
(*369)	390	9	16	21	27	36	38
R-Royce	160	17	20	23	3	7	9
(*171)	180	7	9	13	13	17	19
Tesco	280	17	22	26	9	13	15
(*285)	300	8	12	16	18	24	26
Vodafone	240	20	27	33	8	11	14
(*251)	260	10	17	22	18	21	24
Williams	330	17	23	26	7	14	16
(*334)	360	5	9	13	27	33	34

FT-SE INDEX (*3610)

	3500	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750
Calls						
Nov	109	59	9			
Dec	142	101	66	38	21	9
Jan	163	126	97	70	48	32
Feb	186	152	122	95	73	53
Jun	242	—	179	—	128	—
Puts						
Nov				44	94	144
Dec	17	27	44	69	103	147
Jan	34	48	68	92	121	158
Feb	47	63	83	107	136	170
Jun	100	—	135	—	182	—

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Abby Nat	550	42	56	60	4	16	20
(*585)	600	11	27	33	27	40	45
Amstrad	260	22	31	39	2	7	11
(*279)	280	9	19	27	8	15	19
Barclays	750	43	61	73	6	22	30
(*783)	800	14	32	46	27	46	55
Blue Circ	300	30	39	43	1	5	12
(*327)	330	9	21	25	10	17	25
Br Gas	220	20	27	28	1	5	8
(*237)	240	6	14	17	8	13	18
Dixons	420	15	28	37	11	21	25
(*420)	460	3	12	20	40	46	49
Forte	360	10	18	20	6	11	15
(*362)	380	3	10	11	19	23	26
Tarmac	90	6	10	12	2	5	7
(*93)	100	1	6	8	9	11	13
Hillsdwn	160	6	12	13	3	6	12
(*162)	180	0	4	5	17	18	25
Lonrho	160	11	15	19	2	6	8
(*168)	180	2	6	10	12	17	19
Sears	100	3	6	8	3	4	6
(*100)	110	0	2	4	10	11	13
Thrn Emi	1500	58	96	137	22	45	52
(*1530)	1600	16	49	67	63	100	105
Tomkins	260	9	16	23	5	11	14
(*262)	280	2	8	14	18	23	25
TSB	390	21	28	30	4	20	21
(*405)	420	7	10	14	19	40	38
	Series	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Glaxo Well	850	54	71	84	13	29	36
(*884)	900	25	43	59	33	53	60
HSBC	900	62	82	101	15	37	48
(*940)	950	34	56	73	34	61	72
Reuter	600	47	56	70	11	22	28
(*624)	650	17	30	44	35	49	52
	Series	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Royal Ins	360	32	41	48	5	17	22
(*382)	390	15	25	33	17	33	38
	Series	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Fisons	260	4	5	5	0	0	1
(*264)	280	0	0	0	18	18	20
	Series	**Feb**	**May**		**Feb**	**May**	
Eastern Gp	950	28	27	—	0	1	—
(*974)	1000	0	0	—	32	33	—
	Series	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Natl Pwr	500	11	22	35	12	19	28
(*507)	550	0	6	16	55	56	60
Scot Pwr	360	17	23	31	4	13	14
(*370)	390	3	9	17	21	28	31

November 17, 1995 Tot: 64701 Call: 43227 Put: 21474 FT-SE Call: 15900 Put: 7896

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 71651	Dec 95	3630.0	3634.0	3603.0	3623.0	10464
	Mar 96	3655.0	3655.0	3635.0	3646.0	1252
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3618	Dec 95				3980.0	0
	Mar 96				4025.0	0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 365994	Dec 95	93.44	93.46	93.41	93.44	12772
	Mar 96	93.69	93.70	93.64	93.67	10590
	Jun 96	93.73	93.73	93.68	93.72	6811
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 110	Dec 95				94.27	0
	Mar 96				94.63	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 876995	Dec 95	96.07	96.09	96.07	96.08	10414
	Mar 96	96.27	96.29	96.25	96.27	21880
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 111518	Dec 95	108-17	108-26	108-11	108-17	44304
	Mar 96	108-01	108-04	107-28	107-30	103
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 95	121.86	121.95	121.80	121.82	1831
	Mar 96	120.51	120.60	120.48	120.49	662
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 220537	Dec 95	97.58	97.58	97.34	97.55	118988
	Mar 96	96.82	96.97	96.79	96.94	2735
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 21383	Dec 95	94.54	94.56	94.53	94.55	549
	Mar 96	94.70	94.71	94.70	94.71	145
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 57087	Dec 95	98.03	98.03	97.95	97.98	4666
	Mar 96	98.22	98.22	98.14	98.18	7170
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 44630	Dec 95	103.35	103.86	103.28	103.78	27406
	Mar 96	102.90	103.40	102.90	103.40	253

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7[illegible] Low 6[illegible] Week fixed: 6[illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 6[illegible], close 7[illegible]					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.74	n/a	5.74	5.65	5.55
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £6,295m allotted: £1,200m: Bids: £98.395% received: 17%: Last week £98.38% received: 9%: Avge rate: £6.4055% last wk £6.4647%: Next week: £1,200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7-5
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $386.00-386.30 **Close:** $386.30-386.80 **High:** $386.30-386.80 **Low:** $383.20-383.70 **AM:** $386.60 **PM:** $386.35

Krugerrand: $387.00-389.00 (£249.00-251.00)

Platinum: $414.50 (£266.40) **Silver:** $5.35 (£3.455) **Palladium:** $134.00 (£86.10)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 17	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4322-2.4530	2.4322-2.4354	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	44.62-45.04	44.62-44.72	12-8pr	32-27pr
Copenhagen	8.4090-8.4940	8.4090-8.4310	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	0.9662-0.9707	0.9662-0.9687	11-8pr	28-25pr
Frankfurt	2.1718-2.1899	2.1718-2.1748	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	227.86-229.80	227.86-228.48	27-54ds	108-152ds
Madrid	187.07-188.43	187.07-187.35	40-51ds	135-152ds
Milan	2466.8-2481.3	2466.8-2470.8	7-8ds	23-25ds
Montreal	2.0949-2.1157	2.0949-2.0979	0.18-0.10pr	0.30-0.19pr
New York	1.5504-1.5588	1.5504-1.5514	0.13-0.11pr	0.32-0.29pr
Oslo	9.5880-9.6820	9.5880-9.6030	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	7.5000-7.5640	7.5000-7.5140	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	10.135-10.254	10.135-10.158	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	157.98-158.89	157.98-158.25	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	15.306-15.410	15.306-15.332	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	1.7593-1.7724	1.7593-1.7621	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3515-1.3524
Austria	9.87-9.88
Belgium (Com)	28.86-28.90
Canada	1.3540-1.3545
Denmark	5.4405-5.4435
France	4.8460-4.8475
Germany	1.4030-1.4040
Hong Kong	7.7330-7.7340
Ireland	1.6045-1.6055
Italy	1586.75-1589.50
Japan	102.05-102.15
Malaysia	2.5305-2.5315
Netherlands	1.5710-1.5720
Norway	6.1961-6.1998
Portugal	147.23-147.33
Singapore	1.4118-1.4128
Spain	120.78-120.83
Sweden	6.5508-6.5583
Switzerland	1.1357-1.1362

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5550-1.5576
Australia dollar	2.1012-2.1040
Bahrain dinar	0.5810-0.5930
Brazil real*	1.4974-1.5016
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.6900-0.7000
Finland markka	6.4550-6.5710
Greece drachma	358.75-365.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.0209-12.0302
India rupee	53.65-54.61
Indonesia rupiah	3526.00-3594.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4610-0.4720
Malaysia ringgit	3.9337-3.9377
New Zealand dollar	2.3992-2.4016
Pakistan rupee	53.22 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6075-5.7315
Singapore dollar	2.1939-2.1969
S Africa rand (com)	5.6310-5.7330
U A E dirham	5.6575-5.7815

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	532	Legal & Gn	2,800
ASDA Gp	10,000	Lloyds Bk	3,000
Abbey Ntl	3,900	London Elec	1,700
Allied Dom	1,100	Marks Spr	5,000
Argyll Gp	3,700	Mid Elec	79
Arjo Wggns	563	NatWst Bk	4,200
AB Foods	773	Nat Power	1,200
BAA	1,800	NW Water	1,800
BAT Inds	3,800	P & O	1,300
BOC	1,000	Pearson	790
BP	6,000	PowerGen	2,500
BSkyB	2,200	Prudential	10,000
BTR	24,000	REXAM	2,800
BT	8,000	RMC	734
Bk of Scot	2,600	RTZ	957
Barclays	3,500	Rank Org	3,300
Bass	2,000	Reckitt Col	961
Blue Circle	3,700	Redland	1,700
Boots	3,200	Reed Intl	763
BAe	1,600	Rentokil	1,400
BA	3,300	Reuters	5,100
Brit Gas	7,900	Rolls Royce	3,100
Brit Steel	6,200	Royal Ins	1,300
Burmah Cstl	932	Ryl Bk Scot	5,000
Cable Wire	4,900	Sainsbury	6,500
Cadbury	857	Schroders	97
Carlton Cms	1,100	Scot & New	1,500
Cm Union	981	Scot Power	3,100
Cookson	6,100	Sears	11,000
Courtaulds	500	Svrn Trent	242
De La Rue	292	Shell Trans	6,500
Enterpr Oil	2,900	Siebe	318
Forte	3,800	SmKl Bch	1,700
GKN	544	Smith Nph	2,800
GRE	942	Sthern Elec	1,200
GUS	1,300	Std Chand	1,700
Gen Acc	1,300	Sun Allnce	1,400
Gen Elec	5,000	TI Gp	272
Glaxo Well	3,400	TSB	2,900
Granada	513	Tate & Lyle	610
Grand Met	3,600	Tesco	6,700
Guinness	2,100	Thames W	2,700
HSBC	3,400	Thrn EMI	738
Hanson	13,000	Tomkins	7,100
ICI	1,400	Unilever	1,600
Inchcape	2,400	Vodafone	10,000
Kingfisher	2,400	Whitbread	1,100
LASMO	5,500	Wlms Hld	2,000
Ladbroke	4,900	Wolseley	793
Land Secs	1,100	Zeneca	1,700

WALL STREET

	Nov 17 midday	Nov 16 close
AMP Inc	39	39
AMP Corp	68	67
AT & T	64	64
Abbott Labs	40	40
Advanced Micro	21	21
Aetna Life	74	74
Ahmanson (HF)	26	26
Air Prod & Chem	56	57
AirTouch Comm	30	30
Alberto-Culver B	31	31
Albertson's	34	33
Alcan Alumnm	31	31
Alco Standard	46	46
Allied Signal	45	45
Alum Co of Am	52	52
Amax Gold Inc	6	6
Amerada Hess	48	48
Amer Brands	42	42
Amer El Power	37	37
Amer Express	43	43
Amer Genl Corp	33	33
Amer Home Pr	88	88
Amer Intl	85	85
Amer Stores	28	28
Ameritech	54	54
Amoco	67	67
Anheuser-Busch	67	67
Apple Computer	39	39
Archer Daniels	17	17
Armco	5	6
Armstrng Wrld	60	60
Asarco	32	31
Ashland Oil	33	32
Atl Richfield	111	110
Auto Data Pro	76	75
Avery Dennison	46	46
Avon Products	71	71
Baker Hughes	20	20
Baltim Gas & El	26	26
Banc One	37	36
BankAmerica	60	60
Bank of NY	44	44
Bankers Tr NY	63	64
Barnett Banks	57	57
Bausch & Lomb	36	36
Baxter Intl	39	39
Bectn Dicknsn	67	67
Bell Atlantic	63	64
Bell Industries	21	21
BellSouth	38	38
Black & Decker	35	35
Block (H&R)	43	43
Boeing	75	75
Boise Cascade	35	34
Bristol Myrs Sq	80	80
Browning Ferris	28	27
Brunswick	20	20
Burlington Nthn	82	82
CBS	81	81
CNA Financial	114	114
CPC Intl	68	67
CSX	85	85
Campbell Soup	53	53
Can Pacific	17	17
Cptl Cities ABC	120	119
Carolina Pwr	32	33
Caterpillar	55	55
Central & SW	27	27
Champion Intl	45	45
Chase Manhat	59	58
Chemical Bk	58	57
Chevron Corp	49	49
Chrysler	49	49
Chubb Corp	95	94
Cigna Corp	103	103
Citicorp	67	67
Clorox	76	76
Coastal Corp	32	32
Coca Cola	74	74
Colgate-Palmolive	71	72
Columbia Gas	40	41
Compaq Comp	50	50
Comp Ass Int	56	54
Conagra	39	38
Conrail	69	68
Cons Edison	29	29
Cons Nat Gas	42	42
Cooper Inds	34	34
Corestates	37	36
Corning Inc	27	27
Crown Cork	41	41
Dana Corp	27	28
Dayton Hudson	73	74
Deere	87	86
Delta Air Lines	69	69
Deluxe Corp	27	27
Detroit Edison	32	32
Digital Equip	55	54
Dillard Dept St	30	30
Disney (Walt)	58	57
Dominion Res	39	39
Donelley (RR)	38	37
Dover Corp	39	39
Dow Chemical	68	69
Dow Jones	37	37
Dresser	22	21
Duke Power	44	44
Dun & Brdstreet	62	62
Du Pont	63	63
Eastman Kodak	68	68

	Nov 17 midday	Nov 16 close
Eaton Corp	52	51
Emerson Elec	75	75
Engelhard Corp	22	22
Enron Corp	36	36
Entergy	27	28
Ethyl Corp	11	11
Exxon	78	77
FMC Corp	72	72
FPL Group	42	42
Federal Express	78	77
Fed Nat Mtge	110	110
First Chicago	67	67
First Interstate	132	133
First Union Rlty	7	7
Fleet Finl Grp	40	40
Fluor Corp	56	55
Ford Motor	28	29
GTE Corp	41	40
Gannett	58	57
Gap Inc Del	46	46
Gen Dynamics	59	59
Gen Electric	67	67
Gen Mills	55	55
Gen Motors	45	46
Gen Reinsurance	149	144
Gen Signal	32	31
Genuine Parts	39	39
Georgia Pac	71	72
Gillette	52	51
Glaxo Wellc ADR	27	27
Goodrich (BF)	71	72
Goodyear Tire	40	40
Grace (W&R)	58	58
Grt Atl Pac Tea	22	22
Great Wstn Fin	24	24
Halliburton	42	41
Harcourt General	40	39
Heinz (HJ)	32	32
Hercules	56	55
Hershey Foods	61	61
Hewlett Packard	89	93
Hilton Hotels	65	65
Home Depot	44	43
Homestake Mng	16	15
Honeywell	43	43
Household Intl	59	59
Houston Inds	45	45
Humana	23	22
ITT Corp	121	121
Illinois Tool	59	59
Illinova	29	28
INCO	34	34
Ingersoll Rand	35	35
Inland Steel	23	23
Intel Corp	63	62
IBM	95	95
Intl Flav & Fr	51	51
Intl Paper	35	35
James River Va	28	28
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	84	84
Kellogg	75	75
Kerr-McGee	56	56
Kimberly-Clark	74	73
Kmart	7	7
Knight-Ridder	63	63
Lilly (Eli)	101	99
Limited Inc	17	17
Lincoln Nat	47	47
Litton	43	43
Liz Claiborne	28	28
Lockheed Martin	71	71
Louisiana Pac	23	23
MCI Comm	25	25
Marriott Int	37	37
Marsh & McLnn	84	83
Masco Corp	29	29
May Dept St	43	43
Maytag Corp	19	18
McDonalds	44	43
McDonnell D	89	90
McGraw Hill	86	86
Mead Corp	54	55
Medtronic	50	51
Mellon Bk	52	52
Melville Corp	30	30
Merck Inc	60	59
Merrill Lynch	58	59
Microsoft	88	89
Minnesota Mine	63	64
Mobil Corp	107	107
Monsanto	112	110
Morgan (JP)	77	77
Motorola Inc	62	63
Natl Semi	21	22
Natl Service Ind	32	32
Navistar Int	11	11
NBD Bancorp	37	37
NY Times A	29	30
Newmont Mng	39	38
Niag Mohawk	9	9
Nike B	60	61
NL Industries	11	11
Noram Energy	8	7
Nordstrom	41	41
Norfolk Sthrn	78	78
Nthn State Pwr	46	46
Norwest Corp	31	31
Nynex Corp	49	49
Occidental Pet	23	23
Ohio Edison	22	22

	Nov 17 midday	Nov 16 close
Oracle	48	47
Oryx Energy Co	13	13
Owens Corning	41	42
PPG Industries	43	43
PNC Bank	27	27
PP&L Res	23	23
Paccar Inc	42	41
Pacificorp	19	19
Pac Enterprises	26	26
Pac Gas & Elect	29	29
Pac Telesis	30	30
Pall Corp	24	23
Panhandle East	27	27
Peco Energy	28	28
Penney (JC)	46	46
Pennzoil	40	39
Pepsico	54	54
Pfizer	59	59
Phelps Dodge	63	63
Philip Morris	90	90
Phillips Pet	33	33
Pitney Bowes	44	44
Polaroid	42	42
PriceCostco	16	16
Procter & Gmbl	87	87
Providian	39	39
Pub Serv E & G	29	29
Quaker Oats	35	35
Ralston Purina	61	60
Raychem Corp	49	50
Raytheon	43	42
Reebok Intl	31	32
Reynolds Metals	51	51
Roadway Srvs	51	51
Rockwell Intl	48	48
Rohm & Haas	57	57
Royal Dutch	128	127
Rubbermaid	27	27
SBC Comms	53	54
Safeco Corp	69	69
St Paul's Cos	54	53
Salomon Inc	36	36
Sara Lee Corp	31	31
Scecorp	17	17
Schering Plough	55	55
Schlumberger	65	63
Scott Paper	54	54
Seagram	36	36
Sears Roebuck	39	39
Shell Trans	74	73
Sherwin Wlms	39	39
Skyline Corp	18	18
Snap-On-Tools	43	43
Southern Co	23	23
Sprint Corp	38	37
Stanley Works	49	49
Sun Company	29	28
Sun Microsys	89	89
Suntrust	67	66
Supervalu	31	31
Sysco Corp	31	31
TRW Inc	73	73
TCC Inds	2	2
Tandem Comp	11	11
Tandy Corp	45	45
Teledyne	23	23
Temple Inland	43	43
Tenneco	44	44
Texaco	70	69
Texas Inst	60	62
Texas Utilities	37	37
Textron	70	71
Time Warner	39	38
Times-Mirror A	29	30
Timken	40	40
Torchmark	41	41
Toys R Us	23	23
Transamerica	74	74
Travelers	54	54
Tribune	65	66
Tyco Labs	33	33
UST Inc	31	31
UAL	190	190
US Inds	16	16
USX Marathon	18	19
Unicom	32	32
Unilever NV	129	129
Union Camp	47	46
Union Carbide	37	37
Union Pacific	64	64
Unisys Corp	6	6
USAIR Group	11	11
USF&G Corp	17	17
US Life	28	27
United Tech	90	90
Unocal Corp	27	27
VF Corp	49	49
WMX Tech	27	28
Wal-Mart Stores	23	23
Warner-Lambert	91	91
Wells Fargo	209	209
Westinghouse El	15	15
Weyerhaeuser	43	45
Whirlpool	53	53
Whitman	21	21
Winn Dixie	65	66
Woolworth	15	15
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	48	48
Xerox	137	139
Yellow Corp	12	11

صورة من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

LEGACY HUNT 30
How to stake a claim to your inheritance

WEEKEND MONEY

SHUT DOWN 32, 33
Markets in focus — France and America

Sara McConnell on the campaign that is seeking pension rights for all employees

Pensions anger of part-time workers

Britain's growing army of part-time and contract workers is on the march, demanding access to previously denied employee benefits. This week marked the start of the battle for the biggest prize of all — membership of the staff pension scheme.

Last year, the European Court ruled that part-timers should not be excluded from occupational pension schemes unless the employer could produce a good reason to do so. On top of this, they should be allowed to backdate benefits. The European Court made no mention of workers on short-term contracts. But pensions experts believe they should have the right to join their employer's pension in the same way as part-timers. This week and next, an industrial tribunal in Birmingham will decide how British employers should apply the new European rules to part-timers.

This, however, will be just the start. Employers, which include the Government, predict they will face a £10 billion bill and plan to fight any tribunal decision that goes against them all the way back to Europe if necessary. A huge amount of money is undoubtedly at stake. At present, there are 6.1 million part-time workers in this country. However, Britain's largest companies are forecasting that more than half their workers will be temporary or part-time within five years, according to a survey by the Institute of Management and Manpower. The survey showed up to 90 per cent of big UK employers use part-time and temporary workers.

Legal wrangling and maximum use of the appeal courts by both sides could mean delays of at least two years.

Pensions lawyers are advising part-timers or contract workers who have not yet claimed to go instead to Julian Farrand, the Pensions Ombudsman. Cases should be handled more quickly than through industrial tribunals.

Dr Farrand has made clear that excluding part-timers or contract workers could count as injustice arising from maladministration, which comes within his terms of reference. His rules could result in faster and bigger settlements than in tribunals. But anyone who has already put in a tribunal claim cannot also go to the ombudsman.

The European Court ruled in September 1994 that employers excluding part-timers — the majority of whom are women — from their pension schemes could be guilty of indirect sex discrimination. The court set no limit on backdating of benefits, leaving this to individual member states to decide. Technically, benefits could be backdated to 1976, the date of an earlier relevant European Court ruling. The Government has announced it wants to limit retrospective claims to two years. It also wants to impose a time limit on claims of six months after discrimination occurs or the law changes. But it is up to the tribunal to set limits for claims made before May 31 this year.

In the six months after the European Court decision, more than 60,000 part-timers filed claims to industrial tribunals. Of these, 24 have been selected as test cases. The tribunal will use these to decide how far benefits can be backdated and how long people have to claim them. The TUC, which is coordinating the test cases, argues there are good grounds for backdating claims to 1976.

However, the tribunal may take the Government's line and set a two-year limit for backdating benefits and a six-month limit for claiming them. Tribunals will have to decide whether employers or employees should meet the cost of backdating pension contributions. The tribunal will not have to decide limits for any claims filed after May 31 this year, however. New regulations in force from June 1 forbid pension schemes to discriminate directly or indirectly between men and women, but claims will have to be brought within six months, with a two-year limit on backdating. The employer must fund any backdated contributions that are owed by the employee.

Many part-timers and workers on fixed contracts, particularly in non-contributory pension schemes, could find a better deal with the Pensions Ombudsman. His rules allow claims up to three years after discrimination has taken place and up to three years' backdating of benefits. Joe Robertson, senior casework director with the Pensions Ombudsman, said it was not clear whether it could force employers to pay backdated contributions for employees.

WHO WILL LET IN PART-TIMERS?

■ Local government: No local government employee working less than 30 hours a week was eligible to join the Local Government Superannuation Scheme between 1974 and 1986. In 1986, those working more than 15 hours a week and 35 weeks a year were admitted. In 1993, anyone working 35 weeks a year or more was eligible. Temporary staff on contracts of less than three months were excluded before 1993. Part-timers have been able to "buy back" past service since 1990 by paying extra contributions, but many have not been able to afford to, according to Unison.

■ NHS: Health service employees working more than half time (depending on contract) have been eligible for the scheme since 1991. But anyone working less than this is excluded.

■ Sainsbury: All part-time staff have been eligible since 1989. Three-quarters of the supermarket's staff are part time.

■ Banks: Lloyds was the first of the big banks to extend pension membership to all part-time staff in 1988. The Co-op also admitted part-timers then. All the rest of the leading banks followed, although some exclude part-timers who work less than eight hours a week.

JOHN POTTER

Rachel Harrison, a former bank worker, with 22p, the equivalent of her state pension

Pennies from the state

It will cost the Social Security Department more to send Rachel Harrison information about her pension than to pay it. The state pension earned in her own right will total just 22 pence a week if she retires at 60 in four years' time.

This makes it all the more important that she wins a case to force the Midland Bank, her former employer, to allow her backdated membership of the staff pension scheme as a part-time worker. Hers is one of 24 test cases to be heard at the Birmingham industrial tribunal this week and next. On the ruling hangs the financial futures of hundreds of thousands of part-time workers, mostly women, who have been denied membership of their employer's pension scheme. Many have been unable to build up a state pension in their own right because they took time out to have a family.

Mrs Harrison started work in 1956, but stopped in 1964 to bring up her children. She went back to work part time at the Midland in 1976, but was told that she could not pay full National Insurance contributions towards her state pension because she worked only 12 hours a week. Instead, she could pay only the married woman's "small stamp" giving her reduced contributions.

She was excluded from the Midland scheme because she was part time. Only when she worked full time, from 1982 until 1993, when she retired, was she allowed into it. She gets £134 a month from the scheme. When her husband reaches 65, in seven years, she should get a state pension of £30 through his NI contributions. She is seeking occupational pension benefits retrospectively from the Midland for her part-time work between 1976 and 1982.

Squeeze on cash from home plans

A stagnant housing market has hit the elderly, says **Sara McConnell**

Growing numbers of elderly people are keen to sell part of their home to release cash for their old age, but many can find no takers. Institutional investors, which traditionally have been interested in such deals, are holding back because they are reluctant to invest in property in a stagnant market. People who do find a willing investor almost certainly will get less for their property than they would have six months ago.

Home & Capital, in Bedfordshire, matches homeowners with investors. It says it has enough demand from elderly people needing cash to release £15 million from homes this year. But it has attracted investment totalling only £5 million.

Under the cash-based home reversion schemes that Home & Capital offers, homeowners sell part of their home in return for a one-off cash lump sum. The buyer is normally an institutional investor, such as an insurance company or a pension fund. Owners continue to live in their home, rent-free, for life. They continue to own the part they have not sold.

Many people are keen to realise part of the value of their home for themselves rather than be forced to sell it to fund long-stay residential or nursing care if they need it. Mark King, director of Home & Capital, reports a growing resentment among homeowners that they are expected to sell their homes to pay for care they thought they had already paid for through their National Insurance contributions.

He said: "People are saying, 'Let's take a cash lump from part of our house. There is a good chance we may have to go into long-stay care so let's enjoy the money ourselves while we can'."

But potential investors are wary of buying property that they may not be able to realise for years until the homeowner dies and which is not likely to increase in value in a stagnant property market.

Initially, Home & Capital promised a return of up to 12 per cent for investors. But this included a 3 per cent rise in house-price inflation, which has not materialised. Home & Capital has been forced to reduce the prices it is asking for property to make purchases more attractive to investors. This means homeowners will get a smaller sum if they enter into a deal.

Mr King is now negotiating a differently structured arrangement, whereby investors pay between a quarter and half of the cash upfront and the rest over four or five years.

Weekend Money
is edited by
Anne Ashworth

Some are more equal

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Over the past ten years, the number of private shareholders has multiplied, as a direct result of government policy. You would think that their interests would count for more. Yet the reverse is the case. As the Stock Exchange becomes merely a time zone in a global equities market, so the interests of professionals become ever more dominant. Private investors are pushed to the periphery. This malign trend has now reached the takeover bid.

During the last few months, takeover offers have taken on a new look. Instead of mixing the usual ingredients of securities and/or cash, with the odd loan note to help spread any capital gains tax liabilities, a new element has entered the bid armoury. Part of the "offer" is that the bid-for company will pay a huge special dividend. The fashion for these special dividends has focused on the regional electricity companies, making use of their embarrassment of cash riches. But it is not confined to Recs.

The biggest recent merger, for Lloyds Bank to control TSB, features a "special cash dividend" of 68.3p per share net of dividend tax. This accounts for 20 per cent of the 335p bid value claimed in the document sent to shareholders.

Then follows a sentence that is the same, give or take the numbers, in other offers featuring special dividends. It reads: "Certain TSB shareholders may be able to reclaim the tax credit relating to the special dividend and, assuming such a credit is reclaimed ... the terms of the merger would imply a gross value for each of their TSB shares of 352p."

Who are these lucky shareholders? Well, they could be individuals with such a low income that they are not liable to pay income tax. But this is not a thoughtful gesture to less-well-off investors. It is aimed at gross funds, overwhelmingly pension funds, which pay no tax on UK dividends. These powerful institutional investors, which decide the fate of most bids, can claim 20p from the Inland Revenue on every 80p of net dividends they receive. So their bid will be 5 per cent higher.

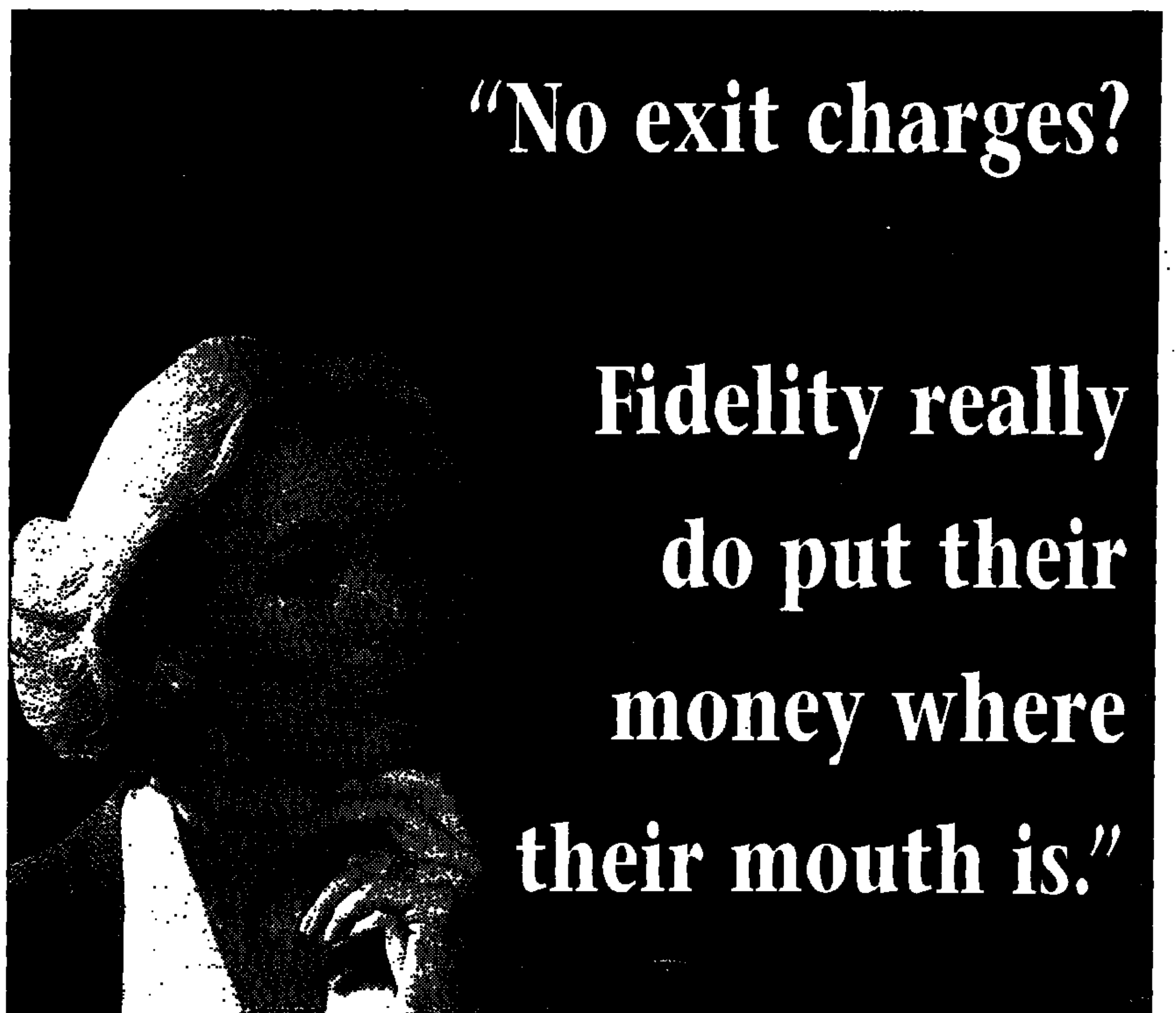
This is as transparent a form of legal bribe as you could find. The practice is also a kick in the teeth for small shareholders, since the companies involved have many more on their register than average, hundreds of thousands lured in at the start by Government.

The offers point out that pension funds will receive more. They do not mention, since investors have different tax circumstances, that many ordinary small investors will actually be worse off because part of the offer is by way of special dividend. That is because many are liable to tax on the dividend at 40 per cent, but their capital gain would in many cases be covered by their annual tax-free allowance.

The City Takeover Code was written, a generation ago, first and foremost to make sure that all shareholders were treated equally: City insiders would no longer get a special deal. The first, shortest and simplest principle of that code reads: "All shareholders of the same class of an offeree company must be treated similarly by an offeror". The Code cannot allow for individual tax circumstances. But the standard sentence in these bids makes it clear that they are structured to offer more to pension funds than to private investors. That is plainly unequal.

The Takeover Panel has passed these bids. It is run for professionals. Proshare, the muzzled investor watchdog, has not commented on them. It is too busy pursuing the interests of big companies over discretionary share options. They should both be embarrassed. In this case, however, any embarrassment may well be shortlived. The Establishment cares little for private investors.

But the Revenue is jealous of what it considers its just desserts. Unless officials have slipped up badly, or City interests have nobbled the Treasury, the Chancellor will end this practice in his Budget. That would still leave a bad taste in the mouths of small investors. After 27 years of takeover rules, City smart guys will still do us down again if they can.



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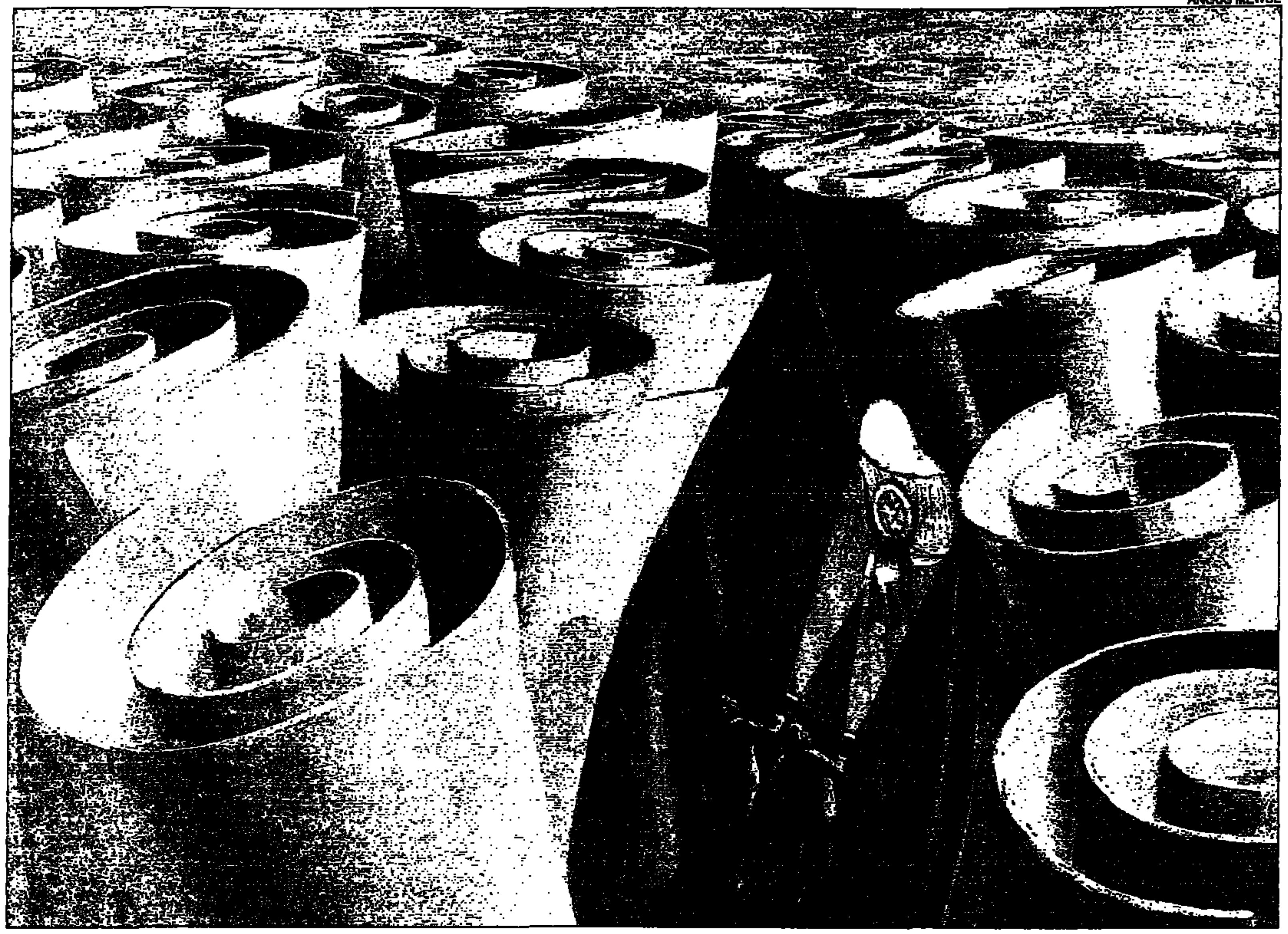
Seek and find missing legacies

Marianne Curphey on how to locate the cash and heirlooms left by relatives


ANGUS MEWSE

A shortage of time and money has forced two Costa Ricans to return home empty-handed after travelling to Britain to try to trace a missing family legacy worth up to £1 billion.

Mauricio Umana and Luis Soto were among 500 descendants of a Spanish banker whose fortune is believed to have been deposited in England almost 200 years ago. They knew the name of their ancestor but not that of the bank to which he entrusted his money, to protect it from being lost in the Napoleonic wars.

Having saved up to fund a trip that involved a fortnight poring over old books in libraries and visiting scores of banks, the two returned earlier this week, none the wiser or richer. They will have disappointed the scores of other relatives who had hoped to take a share of the spoils.

The difficulties they encountered — lack of bank records detailing accounts held in previous centuries, and the consolidation of banks over the years — have highlighted the complexities involved in tracing lost legacies.

Three out of five people in Britain do not make a will and about £100 million a year is left by people who die intestate. Various specialist firms are in the business of reuniting heirs and their inheritance, though they charge up to 30 per cent of the sum they locate.

Others charge for time spent making inquiries plus expenses, which means that the more inquiries you make yourself, the more money you will save. Up to a third of an inheritance can be spent trying to trace the money, although it is possible to negotiate the fee.

The chances of successfully recovering a fortune depend on how recently the relative died and how carefully his or her affairs were kept in order.

The first step in uncovering what solicitors call "dormant" funds is to go to the court funds office (attached to the Lord Chancellor's department, in Kingsway, London). If you know the name of your ancestor, a computer search can be made for the name. The search may even give you the name of the bank or court in which money was last deposited.

You can also search through family papers held by banks and county archive offices. Newspaper libraries, such as the one at Colindale, London, hold copies of newspapers from the first issue onwards and are open to the public.

If you have a relative who died some time ago and you believe you may be entitled to some of the money, the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, London, may be able to help.

It keeps wills of the highest ecclesiastical courts for southern England from medieval times to 1858, and records of orders made by the Court of Chancery (which was responsible for dealing with disputes over inheritance, including money held in trust for minors). Other wills proved in church courts are held around the country.

The civil registry, at Somerset House, also in London, keeps copies of all wills made after 1858 and is open to the public.

If you know the year and month of death, you can make a search and obtain a copy of the will because wills proved at the probate registry can be inspected by the public.

If you suspect there was no will, you may still be able to see the Grant of Letters of Administration, which is equal to the grant of probate. If you merely suspect someone has died, you may need to go back to the last place where you know they lived and search the church records for details and also ask around.

You could instruct an inquiry agent instead, but this can be expensive. Clients are frequently charged on a time spent plus expenses basis and you do not know how long the inquiries will take or whether you will get anything in the end. Another option is to advertise in a local or national paper asking whether anyone knew the relative had died.

Some agencies trawl through newspaper advertisements placed by solicitors who need to trace beneficiaries of wills. These agencies then contact people with the same name by post with the tempting prospect that they might be the one to whom the money was left. Naturally, if they have found the right person, they will expect a fee for their services.

If, like the Costa Ricans, you suspect family fortune and silver have lain buried for years in a field, bank, or on a wreck beneath the sea, the problem is more complex.

Richard Bark-Jones, a specialist in wills and probate, says that the principal problem is one of entitlement: you need to find a record or document which supports your claim.

"The further back into history you go, the more difficult it becomes," he says. "In some cases, money where no heir can be found might have been paid into court and it would remain under the court's jurisdiction until a claimant came forward. However, although courts in theory keep records for ever, they probably go missing or are destroyed after a long time."

It would be impossible, Mr Bark-Jones says, to sue a bank for the money because the contractual debt owed by the bank cannot be reclaimed after six years.

As for land which your family may have owned in the past, someone would almost certainly have acquired title to it at some time in the intervening period, therefore invalidating your claim.

The Land Registry keeps copies of deeds from 1890 onwards, although the further back into history you go, the more difficult it becomes because there are few records.

Similarly, heirlooms such as jewellery must have been passed on over the years and proof of title would be extremely difficult to establish after so long.

INQUIRY FIRMS TO THE FORE

SOLICITORS often use inquiry firms (which are not regulated) to trace missing beneficiaries of people who die intestate. One London firm which specialises in genealogy is Title Research, established more than 30 years. Tom Curran, managing director, says it is a lengthy process to trace a fortune by recreating a family tree because every birth, marriage and death certificate has to be checked and several hundred may be necessary. "The family tree is like a triangle and the further back you go, the more complicated it becomes." If you believe the family silver lies full fathom five, you need to establish the date the ship sank and search newspaper cuttings for clues. Insurance companies, including Lloyd's of London, hold compensation records.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Investment bonds face tax threat

Millions of people hold billions of pounds in investment bonds of one type or another, offered by life insurance companies. One of the biggest selling points of these products has been the ability to take 5 per cent income every year in an ostensibly tax-free way.

Some of the bonds, be they distribution or with-profits products, rely on this Inland Revenue concession to provide policyholders with regular tax-free income.

However, the concession is almost certain to be abolished. A Revenue statement this month showed the Government's intention to scrap the facility, although the change is not likely to come into force for another year. Here, *The Times* asks what the change could mean.

Q What is the position for basic rate taxpayers who invest in bonds at the moment?

A Basic rate taxpayers do not have to pay tax on any income withdrawals from the bond at any time. However, the underlying funds themselves do attract capital gains tax. The tax is equal to 25 per cent of the income into the fund, minus the expenses incurred. By contrast, unit trusts are not hit by this tax, but those investing in them do have to pay CGT if gains in one year exceed £6,000. Income is also taxable. Income tax and capital gains tax can be avoided if investments are held through a Pep.

Q What is the position for higher rate taxpayers who invest in bonds?

A They can take out up to 5 per cent annually from their bonds free of tax in the year the money is withdrawn. This is the concession the Government looks likely to scrap.

Q In practice, will this make a great deal of difference?

A In real terms, it is not likely to do so because higher rate taxpayers are only deferring income tax until the bond is encashed. Then, tax can become payable. The difference between the amount invested and the amount returned, including any income taken during the life of the bond, is taxed at 15 per cent, if the policyholder is a higher rate taxpayer. Policyholders also have to pay this tax if they are sent into a higher income tax band bracket by gains. The plan to scrap the tax concession on the 5 per cent withdrawal facility will be a blow for higher rate taxpayers who escape paying the 15 per cent tax by becoming basic rate tax payers between when they take the bond out and when it is encashed by, for example, retiring.

Q Are bonds or Peps more tax-efficient vehicles?

A If an investment bond and a unit trust have identical underlying investment, the unit trust would outperform the investment bond in rising markets and underperform the unit trust in falling markets because of the tax treatment. On the basis that stock markets rise over the long term, investors who have not used up their annual capital gains tax exemption will be worse off holding the bond.

Q Why would anyone choose to invest in a bond rather than a unit trust?

A Bonds tend to spread policyholders' money in a wider range of investments. Bondholders can benefit from investments being held in managed and with-profits funds where investment returns can be smoother.

Q Will the tax change effectively stop bonds being sold?

A It will be difficult to recommend bonds instead of unit trusts. Although the change will not be put into force for a while, life companies are telling their salesmen not to sell bonds on the back of their ability to pay out 5 per cent income free of tax.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Couple find a cheaper way to invest

WINNERS & LOSERS

Claire Nicholson is a great believer in financial products with no charges. She and her husband, Martin, have discovered a way to invest in personal equity plans at very little cost to themselves.

Corporate personal equity plans are potentially the cheapest and most tax-efficient way to buy shares.

More than 200 companies sponsor their own corporate Peps, from Asda to Yorkshire Electricity, as a way to encourage private shareholders to take a stake in their company.

To make the investment extra attractive, some companies subsidise the charges. It is quite common to find corporate Peps with no initial charges and an annual management charge equivalent to 0.5 per cent of the amount invested — £30 for a £6,000 Pep. This compares with average general Pep charges of 5 per cent up front and 1 per cent to 1½ per cent on an annual basis.

Mrs Nicholson says: "My husband and I have a medium-sized portfolio, mostly acquired through inheritance. Since March this year, we have transferred £24,000 worth of our shares into Peps. We read the small print at the back of the annual reports which said these companies offered corporate Peps. This will cost us just £20 plus value-added tax [VAT] per year and deprive the taxman of over £250. These Peps enable the tax break to really benefit the investor as the regulations intended."

The majority of Peps in the couple's portfolio will cost them nothing to hold. Although they have to pay an annual fee of £10 plus VAT to keep their HSBC shares in a Pep, their P&O and Marks & Spencer Peps cost nothing to run.

The HSBC shares, at 906p each, have shown a yield of 3.9 per cent with a tax refund of £58 on the £6,000 invested. With P&O deferred, at 552p, the yield has been 6.9 per cent and the tax refund £103. The Marks & Spencer Pep, at 448p, yields 2.9 per cent, offering a tax refund worth £43.

Investors can put up to £9,000 into corporate Peps in any tax year, if they use both their general Pep allowance of £6,000 and the single-company Pep allowance of £3,000. However, this is a risky strategy to follow for an investor with a small amount of savings. The danger is that the performance of your investments rests on the fortunes of just one or two companies. Even the biggest and best-known of companies can run into difficulties that prompt a sharp fall in their share prices. Martin Mullany, a director of Brooks Macdonald Gayer, says he would usually recommend that investors start to save money in Peps by buying unit or investment trusts. These effectively spread investors' money across a much wider range of shares than they could normally afford themselves. This, in turn, helps to reduce the risk of losing money, because a poor performance by any one company will have little impact if the rest of the unit trust's portfolio is performing well.

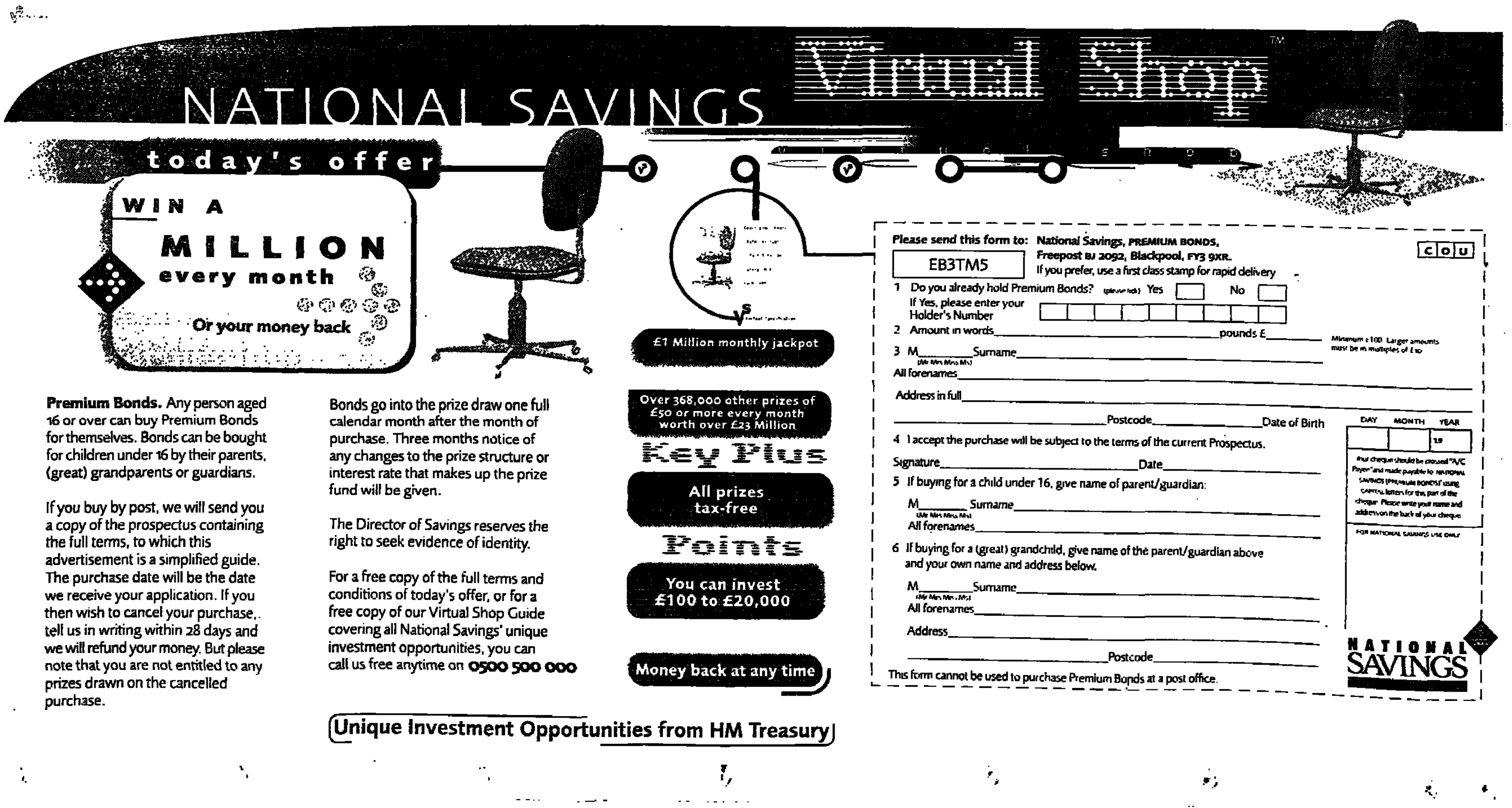
However, he adds: "An investor who already holds a large portfolio of shares would be well-advised to use up their Pep allowance to protect dividends and capital gains from tax."

Most companies farm out the administration of their corporate Peps to a third-party specialist, usually a stockbroker, bank or building society. Bradford & Bingley Building Society administers more than 60 corporate Peps, while Henderson Financial Management operates more than 20.

Of course, even if your favourite company does not sponsor a corporate Pep, there is nothing to stop you buying the shares and putting them in a self-select single-company or general Pep. However, the charges will be slightly higher. Bank of Scotland's self-select single-company Pep, for example, levies an annual charge of 1 per cent plus VAT.

Look overseas for Peps, page 37

JILL INSLEY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Why L&G's crowd-pleasing special bonus was politic

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Ahead of a Budget tipped to spread some jam, 1.4 million Legal & General policyholders are to receive a jar of better-quality conserve.

L&G has pulled out a plum in the shape of a special bonus that will boost the next annual bonus by at least 30 per cent. Anyone with a £30-a-month, 25-year with-profits endowment policy maturing in the next few weeks will have an extra £900 added to their £60,000 lump sum.

Better still, this is a deal from which everyone benefits, as L&G shareholders will also see their dividends increased. The higher payment acknowledges the capital contribution made by shareholders over more than a century to the with-profits fund. Today the £13.2 billion fund contains more than enough to meet its liabilities. Even after the special bonus is paid, the fund will still show a surplus of close to £1.5 billion.

So, everyone is smiling. However, this is not a heart-warming tale of how David Prosser, L&G chief executive, was suddenly transformed into Father Christmas. When, in the spring, L&G first began to discuss how to give a better deal to shareholders, no mention was made of perks for policyholders.

Although complex new accounting rules will require life companies to disclose "shareholders' retained capital", L&G had a more immediate reason for keeping shareholders sweet: Allianz, the Anglophile German insurer, was rumoured to be interested in acquiring L&G.

L&G policyholders, however, found themselves a champion in the forceful and articulate form of Sir John Nott, the former Cabinet minister, now chairman of Hillsdown Holdings. Sir John, who has two L&G policies, asked awkward questions about figures and demanded that policyholders' interests be protected.

The City does not doubt that the Nott intervention played a significant role in the outcome. Roman Cizdyn, analyst with Merrill Lynch, says: "L&G has bent over backwards to keep Sir John happy."

Unfortunately, Provident Mutual policyholders did not have such a spokesman. At a bitter meeting this week, they saw their company pass into the control of General Accident, in a £170 million takeover from which they will earn very little. Asked why the company had fallen on such hard times, and why no other bids had been considered, Provident Mutual directors were dismissive.

As a mutual, Provident was owned by its members, the policyholders. However, citing *force majeure*, the company paid only lip service to their rights. The moral may be to invest only where former ministers are also customers.

Twilight years

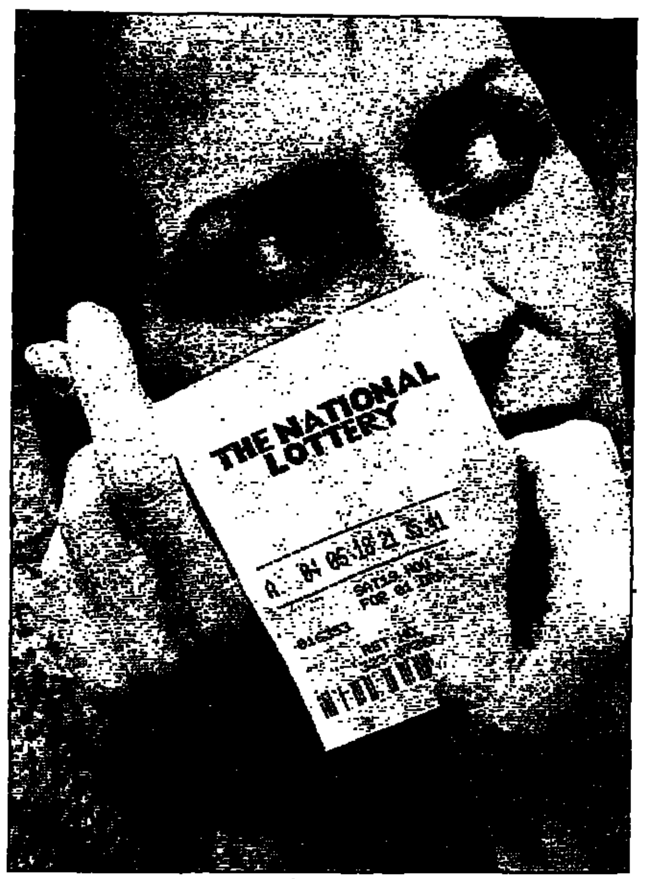
THE image of the average Californian may be a twentysomething, hi-tech worker with perfect teeth. But this same rollerblading creature is apparently quite happy to save for the day, half a century hence, when the beach will no longer be the place to go.

Like three other US states, California promises those who take out a long-term care insurance policy that it will take over the burden of paying twilight-home fees after three years. The guarantee holds good, regardless of your means.

By making provision early in life, Californians can ensure that they will not be forced to sell their homes to fund their care. To the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF), the US arrangement sounds like a solution to the UK crisis over who pays the bill for pensioners' residential care.

The NAPF is now calling on the Government to create a new savings scheme to cover these costs, as there is simply not sufficient cash in the pensions pot to provide for every retirement eventuality.

This may not be the answer, but at least someone seems to be seriously addressing the problem.



The lottery has been a winner since its inception a year ago

Caroline Merrell and **Anne Ashworth** list building society front runners

Hunt on for bid jackpot

Like the National Lottery, the Spot the Building Society Takeover Game continues to preoccupy the British. Seven months older than the lottery, which celebrates its first birthday this month, the takeover game was inspired by the £1.8 billion Lloyds Bank bid for the Cheltenham & Gloucester in April 1994. This key event was followed in November last year by news that the Halifax would be converting into a £9 billion bank, with free shares all round.

Seven months later, those who had put their money on the National & Provincial hit the jackpot, thanks to a £1.3 billion offer from the Abbey National. A survey from Nikko Europe, published this week, calculated that the N&P and Halifax deals would produce £11 billion worth of payouts. To date, the National Lottery has produced £1.5 billion in prizes.

Takeover game players are now focusing on the Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich, tipped to be the most likely to convert and float on the stock market. This week, the rumours intensified, with some predicting that Alliance & Leicester would make an announcement about its future before the end of the year. Others speculated that when Peter Robinson takes over as chief executive at the Woolwich in the new year, it could be the prelude to a flotation.

Most other societies in the top 20, apart from the Nationwide, are not of sufficient size to make it an option to convert. Instead, many of these societies, are considering merging to get the critical mass needed for flotation. Among those said to be interested in merger talks are the Britannia, believed to have been, at one time, in negotiations with the Bristol & West. Their combined assets would be about £21 billion — a size which would make it viable to float, although the Britannia states that it is committed to mutuality.

Other societies in the top 20, including the Bradford & Bingley, Yorkshire and Birmingham Midshires, are also wedded to the concept of staying mutual, but could be interested in mergers. A spokesman for Birmingham Midshires said it had received support for its stance on mutuality from its members, but added: "We have made no secret of the fact we are on the acquisition trail."

Northern Rock also said it would consider a merger with another mutual, if the right proposition came along.

Some building societies could also be pondering mergers with mutual life insurance companies. For instance, Friends Provident is believed to have been in talks with Leeds Permanent about a takeover before it decided to link up with Halifax. This week it denied talk of a deal with the Woolwich.

If Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich do decide to convert, the combined nine million membership could benefit from bonuses in the form of free shares.

The Alliance & Leicester, with assets of £22 billion, is considered to be the most diversified of building societies, with banking interests in the shape of Girobank, and plans to launch its own unit trust and life insurance arm next year, making the promise of shares attractive. The value of the reserves per member at the Alliance & Leicester is equal to £328, which could point to a bonus per member of £590, based on the bonuses for Cheltenham & Gloucester and National & Provincial.

Using this formulae, the Woolwich could pay out £686 to its membership.

People who keep secrets

Marianne Curphey finds resentment over revealing finance figures

People are far more willing to reveal their weight, home telephone number and political or religious beliefs than personal financial details, a study has found.

They accept that banks and building societies need confidential information to provide a service, but resent being asked about their income and savings by researchers from newspapers, magazines or supermarkets.

Every year, UK consumers complete an estimated 49 million application forms, fill out 54 million questionnaires for money-off coupons and respond to 39 million market research questions.

But the Henley Centre, which interviewed 1,500 people, found companies from all sectors were running the risk of alienating customers if they did not explain why information was being kept or offer any benefit in return.

Melanie Howard, head of marketing studies, says: "Consumers take a pragmatic view with banks and building societies that you have to trade information for a better service. People want something in exchange for providing information, otherwise they will become annoyed that the company is not providing benefits in return and the relationship is a one-way street. Longer term, the fact that information is not being used properly is making them less willing to trade."

Less than a quarter of those questioned believed that companies kept their promise of not selling on their details to other firms. For that reason, only 13 per cent were keen to disclose their household income and only 11 per cent were happy to pass on information about personal investments and savings.

Three-quarters of them were prepared to provide such details to a bank but only half would give them to a supermarket, and 72 per cent said that if they did not give out their details to companies, information would be obtained through other means.

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National events can affect the markets. **Robert Miller** assesses the French situation

Gallic minefield for investors

Gallic visitors are finding a strong franc is bad news. For investors on this side of the Channel, however, it provides a ray of sunshine in a country that started the week with a wave of strikes and ended with an austerity budget.

The ferocity of that fiscal package, which includes radical proposals to curb France's social security bill and plans to cut the general deficit, stunned the National Assembly. The message from President Chirac to Alain Juppé, Prime Minister, is clear though: If these Draconian measures, don't work, you're out of a job. And the President has nothing to lose by playing it tough. Equity and bond markets love it and his standing in the opinion polls is rock-bottom anyway, with more strikes threatened.

But whatever the state of the French economy, its' stock market, and that of Germany, are key to British investors in continental markets. The general rule of thumb for managers is overweight in France and underweight in Germany. In terms of size the two represent about 12 per cent each in the overall basket of European stock markets, while the UK's share is roughly three times larger.

James Capel, the stockbroker, says: "Yes, the French budget was impressive. The bond market loved it and there is some short-term leeway on interest rates which will support it, but the longer term implications of the Juppé budget do not support a change of trend.

"Lower growth, higher unemployment and still weakening consumer confidence are the downside of fiscal prudence and the 'Franc Fort' and are likely to lead to earnings downgrades."

Andrew Carter, European investment manager at Gartmore, which has some £2 billion invested in continental markets, believes that the general reaction to Juppé's budget is positive and reaffirms the Government's commitment to the "Franc Fort". He says whether it works or not is down to a question of confidence. "The balance between a virtuous economic circle and a vicious circle is finely poised at present. Lower interest rates, a strong currency and tough action on the deficit work only if there is a general air of confidence. If the fiscal package works too well, there is a danger of neutral, or even negative, growth."

Earnings from European companies over the past two years have, on average, grown 55 per cent. That has now slowed dramatically and Mr Carter says that forecasts at the beginning of the year predicting that French company profits would grow by 50-60 per cent have been slashed to a band ranging from zero to 10 per cent. Banks and insurance companies, many of which were previously state-owned and therefore had plenty of room for cost cutting and reducing debt programmes, have fared slightly better. However, Alcatel Alsthom, a major player in the telecommunications market, went from profit into loss at a time when similar companies in other markets have forged ahead.

UK investors favour French consumer companies such as Carrefour, the retailer, L'Oreal and LVMH, purveyors of Dom Perignon, Thomas Hine, Moet & Chandon as well as baggage and perfumes.

Gartmore remains overweight in France, although some fund managers sold in July and August. Mr Carter's view is that company growth should begin to show through again next year, but not perhaps on the scale investors would have hoped. An exposure to France remains essential for a European portfolio, but not necessarily in strict stock market weighting terms.

SECU, c'est la VIE

French trade union leader Nicole Notat as France started the week with a wave of strikes

Fund managers say the dollar is best

TRUST WATCH

SOME interesting strategic pointers for investors are contained in the monthly Merrill Lynch-Gallup roundup of UK fund managers.

On currencies, 68 per cent of those polled picked the US dollar as their favourite currency over the next 12 months, with the mark a very distant second on 15 per cent and sterling on 7 per cent — one percentage point above the Japanese yen.

On equities, Bijal Shah, global strategist at Merrill Lynch, says that "managers are in love with Hong Kong", with 44 per cent stating that it is their favourite equity market. But then the 88 City houses polled between November 6 and 8 are bullish in general on the near term and the one-year outlook for Pacific Basin equities. Some 32 per cent of managers are looking to increase their asset allocation to this area.

This is in sharp contrast to the UK market where a balance of just 1 per cent are looking to raise their exposure to British equities compared with a balance of 3 per cent looking to reduce exposure last month. Around 33 per cent are bulls of UK gilts.

There has also been a shift in sentiment from smaller companies to larger ones. In October, 49 per cent backed the more broadly based FTSE-Mid 250 index, against 40 per cent looking to the FTSE-100. This month, 53 per cent back the top companies compared with 35 per cent looking to mid-sized companies.

On politics, 95 per cent of managers believe that Labour will be the winner of the largest number of seats at the next general election.

■ The British Venture Capital Association this week published a new edition of *Sources of Business Angel Capital 1995-96*. Call 0171-240 3846 for a copy of this free guide.

ROBERT MILLER

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while **Richard Thomson** looks at what is happening in America

When the light goes out on the Statue of Liberty

When they close down the Statue of Liberty it is probably time to start worrying. But that is what they did this week, as well as laying plans to close down about 40 per cent of all other government services, when the US Government ran out of money at midnight on Monday and Congress refused to give it any more.

The political stand-off between President Clinton and Congress is not the first of its kind, but it is probably the most serious and could run longer than any previous crisis. When something similar last happened under George Bush, the Government closed down over a weekend, but this time the disruption could last weeks or even months.

Put simply, the Republicans in Congress want to cut the federal deficit and will not give the President more money to fund the government's running costs until he agrees. But Mr Clinton refuses to agree because he does not want to cut the budget by so much.

Peter Canelo, market strategist at NatWest Markets in New York, says: "Both sides have invested a lot of face in this stand-off. Neither side can actually force the other to climb down and there is absolutely no sign of a compromise."

You would think this might be a recipe for panic in the financial markets, but until a few days ago there was an eerie calm. Treasury bonds actually rallied as the deadline for closedown approached. The general view on Wall Street is that the US Government just does not, cannot and will not default. President Reagan once quipped: "What if they shut down the government and nobody cared?" Until recently Wall Street did not care.

But faced with the continued stand-off, it is starting to change its mind. The Treasury bond market has been invincibly strong this year, but has begun to show signs of wavering. Earlier this week, in the last auction allowed to it, the Treasury had to pay a higher rate of interest on its bonds — a sure sign that concern is setting in among investors.

Mr Canelo says: "The longer this goes on, the less convinced the markets will be that a credible budget deficit reduction package will result." Failure to tackle the deficit could mean higher interest rates and that, in turn, will mean a fall in bond prices. So the bond gurus are at last getting jittery.

Does this make it a market to avoid at all costs? However bad the political impasse, it is hard to believe that the US Government will seriously allow itself to default on its debt, which is the only event that might cause large disruption in the market.

Crisis dims the famous torch as Clinton and Congress squabble over money

Assuming that does not happen, most experts believe that Treasury bonds yields are set to stay in a trading range of between 6.25 and 6.5 per cent. (Yields are currently about 6.29 per cent). This is lower than they were a year ago, so there may well be room for prices to fall in the foreseeable future, particularly if the market decides that interest rates are indeed about to rise.

And that is the real worry. Wall Street is not seriously concerned that the US Government will default like some banana republic, but that the fight between Congress and the White House will lead to an unsatisfactory long-term budget solution. Wall Street wants to see the budget deficit fall. Given the President's implacable opposition to Congress's measures, however, investors are starting to doubt that this will happen.

So although a catastrophe looks unlikely, US bonds are probably not the healthiest investment just now. If there is one thing financial markets hate more than anything it is uncertainty, and the uncertainty being created by the funding crisis is the kind with no upside. Any solution is likely to be a messy compromise that will do no favours to bond investors.

Wall Street stays switched on

In the middle of the US Government's funding crisis, the New York stock market has rarely had it so good. The Dow Jones industrial average took off like a ballistic missile last week, and in the Wednesday trading session alone, rose more than 50 points to break through the 4,900 level.

To almost everyone's surprise, the magic 5,000 point on the index seems only a stone's throw away far sooner than expected.

It has, indeed, been a spectacular year for the market. So far, the Dow Jones index is up nearly 30 per cent, in spite of worries that the economy may be slowing down and that corporate earnings may have peaked.

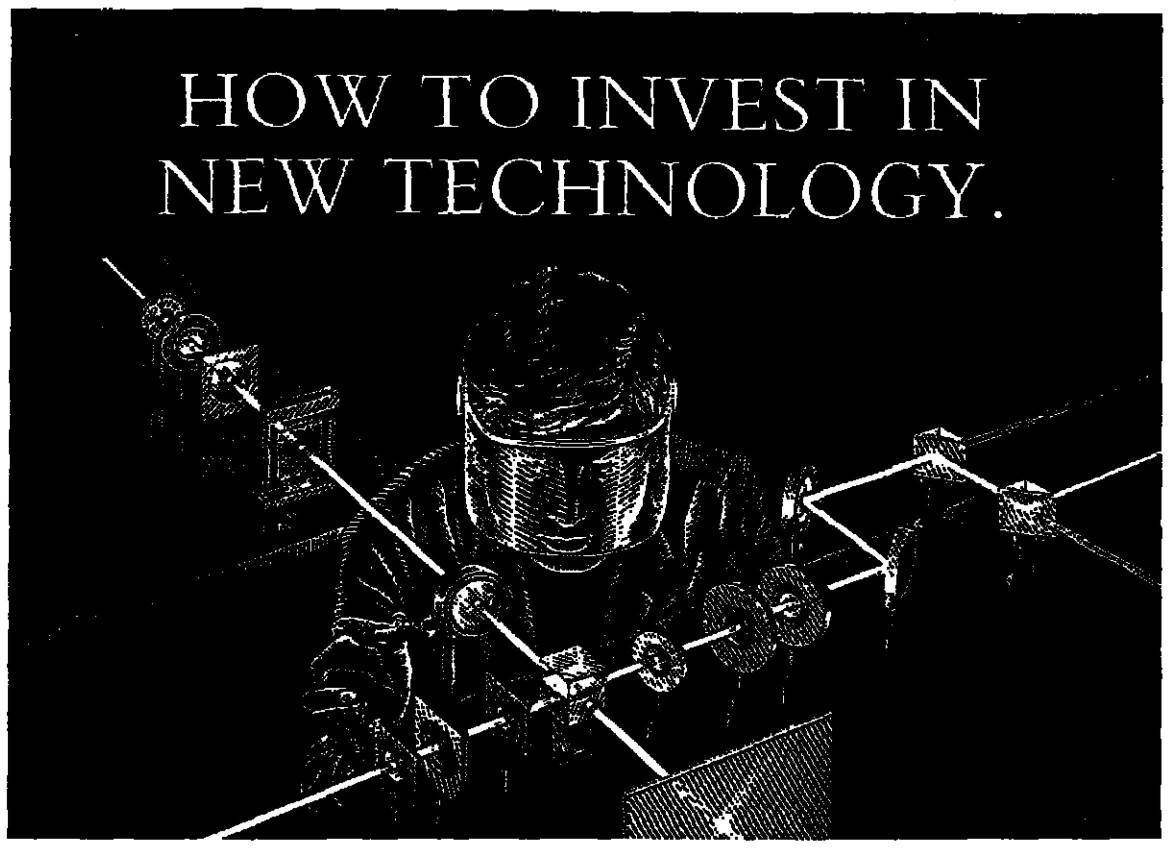
The rise has been led by high-technology issues, from software groups such as Microsoft and Netscape — whose shares have more than doubled since its initial share offering a few weeks ago, even though the company has only once reported a profit — to the hardware manufacturers such as Intel and Compaq.

Every week, some pundit predicts that the bull run cannot go on, but can it? "Stocks are still very cheap compared with bonds," says Peter Canelo of NatWest Markets in New York. "The market is reasonably priced on a ratio of about 16 times price to earnings. At the top of a cycle, the ratio can go as high as 22 times. If the US funding crisis is resolved soon, we could see the Dow Jones industrial average going to between 5,500 and 5,900 in the next six to nine months."

Undoubtedly, parts of the stock market are looking overvalued.

The much-hyped software issues are on price/earnings ratios of 35 times or more. But the good news is that whenever there has been a setback in such issues, the stock market as a whole has not gone into free fall, but accepted a modest retreat for a few trading sessions before resuming its upward climb.

This appears to show that investor optimism is very deep-seated.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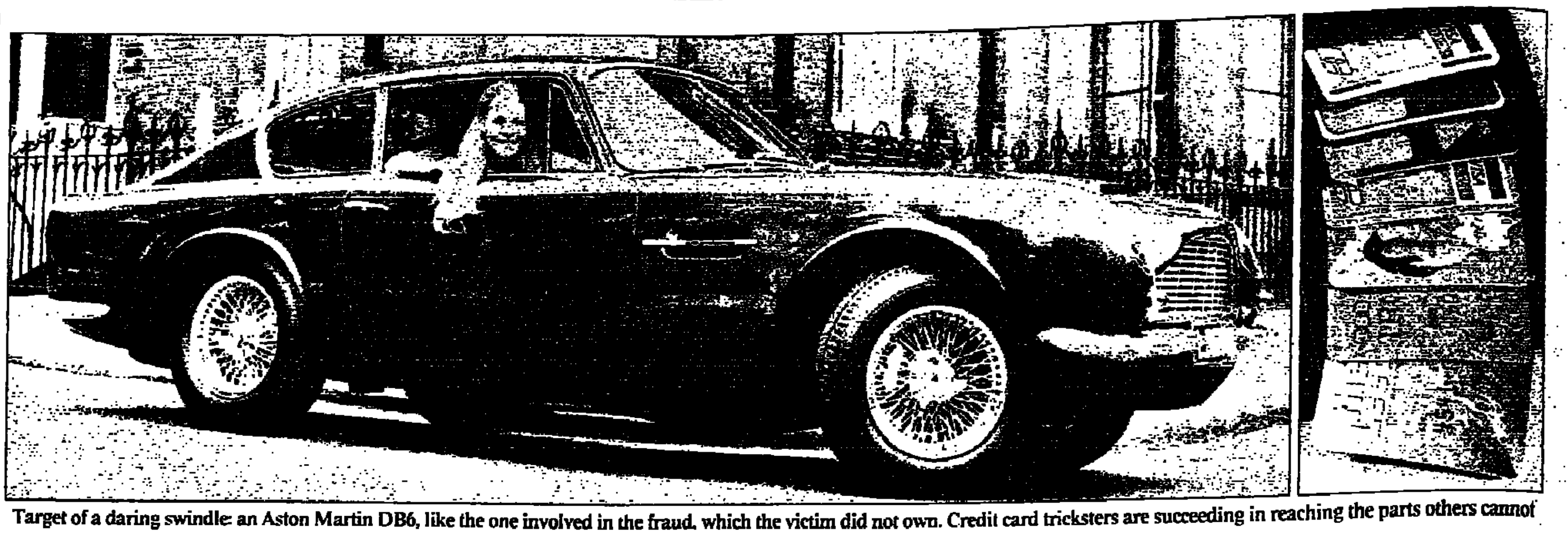

Target of a daring swindle: an Aston Martin DB6, like the one involved in the fraud, which the victim did not own. Credit card tricksters are succeeding in reaching the parts others cannot

Fraud wheel of fortune

Karen Zagor on how the fight against plastic fraud can be stepped up

When an invoice for nearly £1,500 for wheels and parts for an Aston Martin DB6 arrived at the home of a reader of *The Times* in Bristol, he was certain a mistake had been made. He says: "I was flattered that anyone would think I drive an Aston Martin, but I don't."

He became more perturbed after ringing the retailer and discovering that someone had used his Barclaycard to pay for the goods, which had been delivered to his home a day earlier.

The retailer had even checked with Barclaycard, which had cleared the transaction. The thief then intercepted the delivery van at the reader's door and had the goods loaded into his own car which was parked nearby. Luckily, the reader did not have to pay a penny for the misuse of his card, but the case is alarming because it shows how easily a thief can overcome standard security measures.

Concern about plastic card fraud is justified. According to the Association for Payment Clearing Services (Apacs), losses linked to card fraud added up to £96.8 million last year. Although this is considerably below the peak losses of £165.6 million in 1991, it is still uncomfortably high. There is some cheer for the victims of plastic card fraud. If a thief goes on a spending spree with your credit card before you realise it is missing, you will only be responsible for the first £50 under the Consumer Credit Act. If there is a series of withdrawals linked to the theft, you are still only responsible for £50.

In many cases banks and building societies do not pass on this charge to their customers. A Midland Bank spokesman says: "We do not pursue the first £50. It is there to make sure that customers contact us as soon as they are aware that something has happened to their card or PIN." For debit and cash card fraud, banks and building societies have agreed under the Banking Code of Practice to accept a similar level of liability. This protection does not apply, however, if the card issuer can prove that the consumer was grossly negligent. It helps to report a lost or missing card as soon as possible. Says the reader: "I am very concerned that had I not received the original invoice after authorisation by Barclaycard of the transaction, then the first I would have known of this fraudulent use of my credit card would have been from my latest statement.

"This was two and a half weeks after the fraud, and I would have found it very difficult to prove its mis-use." In fact, the reader would have been exonerated, even after such a delay, but it might have taken Barclaycard much longer to complete its own investigation.

There are insurance schemes designed to take away the worry of card loss. The Sentinel scheme, offered by a number of issuers including Barclays, costs £8 a year to cover all cards. If a card is stolen, Sentinel will notify all companies, arrange for new cards to be issued and help with a £750 cash emergency advance if necessary. Richard Tyson-Davies, head of public affairs at Apacs, says about 75 per cent of losses from stolen cards occur in shops. The industry has clamped down on such crime.

He says: "We've focused on the transactions where there is the greatest likeliness of fraudulent use, such as the sale of jewellery, women's shoes and DIY goods. These are things people can sell off quickly and turn into cash."

Some card issuers have introduced photos on their cards. Both Royal Bank of Scotland and National & Provincial have reported a substantial drop in card crime since they brought out these cards.

Yet the industry has resisted introducing photo cards for years. Apacs says they put too much of the onus for checking on retail staff. Instead, it expects the industry will start issuing smart cards in 1997. They would contain computer chips with a means of identifying the cardholder, perhaps through using a PIN at the point of sale. Ultimately, cards will probably be protected using biometric methods, such as encoding a fingerprint scan. "These methods will have to be so reliable that a genuine customer is not refused," says Mr Tyson-Davies. "None of them are good enough yet, but we live in hope."

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Bigger help in the small claims court

The small claims court will not be quite so small in the new year. From January 8, the cash limit for claims will rise from £1,000 to £3,000.

For many, the small claims court is the last resort when it comes to recovering debts. Richard's story is a common one. He received a call from an old friend he had not seen for some time. Tom explained that he needed to borrow £300 for a holiday. When the money was handed over, Tom promised faithfully to repay it the next week.

Six weeks later, Richard was receiving a generous number of excuses but no money. He decided to use the small claims court to recover his money.

Disputes can be resolved in the court in a less formal atmosphere than is found in normal court proceedings. In most cases, no solicitor is needed, so the cost can be minimised.

Before making a claim, it is best to check whether the defendant has any money worth pursuing. Richard knew Tom lived with his parents and that, if necessary, they would probably settle the debt.

Legal proceedings should be started only after every effort has been made to settle matters amicably.

When court action seems the only option, the litigant should first write to the defendant setting out the nature of the complaint and proposed solution. The letter should include a threat of legal action if no satisfactory resolution is reached.

Small claims proceedings are started by completing a county court "Request for issue of default summons". The form can be obtained from any county court. The completed form should be sent to the relevant county court — either where the defendant lives or where the contract was formed — enclosing the court fee.

For the first £600, the cost is 10p for every £1 claimed with a minimum fee of £10. For larger claims of up to £1,000 there is a £65 flat fee.

The court issues the summons and provides a case number. The defendant has 14 days to reply. Once both sides have put their case, the court arranges a meeting to decide how the matter will be handled. The court registrar, who is a solicitor, decides whether more information is required before the hearing date.

At the hearing, both sides are encouraged to present their cases fully. Richard was fortunate: once he threatened proceedings, Tom arranged, through his parents, for the debt to be settled without the need for a hearing.

In many cases, obtaining judgment is not the end of the battle. It may be necessary if the defendant refuses to pay, to take enforcement proceedings. These can include obtaining an order for bailiffs to seize property equal to the value of the debt, or an order deducting payment by instalments from the defendant's salary.

> ❛ Both sides are urged to state their case fully at the hearing ❜

Huw Davey, a partner and litigation specialist with Anstey Sargent and Probert, an Exeter law firm, cautions against handshake loans. He says: "Often the greatest problem with debt recovery, especially where friends or family are involved, is satisfying a court that anything is due in the first place." He recommends that if payment is made by cheque a copy should be retained, or, the borrower should be asked for a receipt confirming the amount and agreed repayment date.

Another option, particularly if the borrower promises to repay by an agreed date, is to ask for a post-dated cheque, giving the lender evidence of the debtor's liability if the cheque bounces.

IAN HUNTER

Anne Ashworth and **Caroline Merrell** on how to shrink a home loan

To repay or not to repay?

IZHAR COHEN

Once upon a high-inflation time, rises in the cost of living could be relied on to shrink your home loan, as the value of the property increased. Nowadays, falling house prices and low inflation mean that borrowers are keener to repay their debt, especially since the value of mortgage interest relief has also fallen. Now given at the rate of 15 per cent, the relief is worth just £350 a year on a £30,000 mortgage. The housing industry has lobbied for it to be increased in the Budget, but it is thought that the Chancellor is saving his money for cuts in the basic rate of tax. Those looking to repay part of their loans include shareholders who have reaped the rewards of electricity company takeovers or savers looking forward to a tax exempt special savings account (Tessa) maturing in January. Here, *The Times* answers the most commonly asked questions.

Q Is it a good idea to reduce the outstanding debt on a mortgage?

A Although interest rates are at the moment low, the margin between mortgage rates and savings rates remains at an average of 2.19 per cent. You may be better off reducing your debt, which is likely to carry an interest rate of about 8 per cent, rather than keeping the money in the money in a savings account where it may be earning only 4 to 5 per cent, before the deduction of tax at the rate of 25 per cent. Higher rate taxpayers have extra tax to pay.

Q How can I calculate if I would be better using my savings to repay the loan?

A The sums are not complex. Simply compare the after-tax return on your savings with the rate you are paying on your loan.

On the first £30,000 portion of the loan, you receive tax relief, which reduces the rate from 7.99 per cent (the standard variable rate charged by larger lenders) to a real rate of 6.79 per cent. The best-buy Birmingham Midshires First Class postal account (see page 39) offers a return of 5.85 per cent on balances of £10,000 or more. After tax is deducted at the rate of 25 per cent, this is reduced to 4.39 per cent. After tax at 40 per cent, the rate is 3.51 per cent.

No tax relief is given on the portion of the loan above £30,000. This means that you are worse off repaying your mortgage only if you are earning more than 10.7 per cent before tax on your savings (basic-rate taxpayer), or 13.31 per cent (higher-rate taxpayer). Few safe investments are offering returns close to these figures.

Even though the next move in mortgage and other interest rates is likely to be downwards, paying off chunks of your loan means that, if interest rates rise suddenly, you will have to pay the higher rate of interest on a lower amount of debt.

Q How easy is it to pay off the capital on a loan?

A Just send a cheque to your building society, making clear that it is a capital repayment. You might think this is a piece of obvious advice, but a surprising number of borrowers apparently believe that lenders have mind-reading powers.

You should ask for your balance to be adjusted immediately. Otherwise, it may not be altered until the bank or society's year end. Some societies still operate on the "annual rests" system, by which debt is adjusted only once a year.

To ensure that their debt balance is changed, some borrowers like to submit their repayment cheque close to the end of the society's financial year. The Halifax will accept cheque or cash repayments on January 31, its year-end date.

Q Should all borrowers consider paying off parts of their loans, if they have the cash?

A Some of the fixed or discounted rates on offer carry large redemption penalties of as much as six months' interest, or a percentage (typically 1 per cent) of the original advance. These redemption penalties will be invoked if you try to pay off part of the loan.

If considering a remortgage deal involving a fixed- or discounted-rate mortgage, check the redemption penalty terms if you think that you may wish to reduce your debt at some time in the future.

Q I have credit-card and other debts. Would I be better off repaying these first?

A Credit and store-card interest rates are invariably higher than mortgage rates. Even the most competitively priced cards (see page 36) carry Annual Percentage Rates (APRs) of 12 to 14 per cent, while Barclaycard holders face an APR of 22.9 per cent. You should also be cautious about using spare cash to repay a mortgage if you suspect that you may need to borrow for some other purpose in the near future, because mortgages are also cheaper than other loans. Again, even the best-buy personal loans (see page 36) have APRs of 15 per cent or more.

Q What happens if I do not have a lump sum, but can afford to pay a little extra?

A It is possible to increase your monthly repayments so as to pay off your loan more quickly. Even an extra £10 can help you repay your loan more quickly. For example, if you have a 25-year £50,000 mortgage at 7.99 per cent, an extra £10 will reduce your term to 23 years, 3 months. An extra £100, £150, or £200 will cut the term to 14 years, 10 months; 12 years, 6 months; and 10 years, 10 months, respectively.

Q If I make a capital repayment, by how much will my repayment come down?

A A Halifax borrower paying £10,000 towards a £50,000 loan would cut the monthly repayment from £360.05 to £282.05.

Advisers back delay on tax shake-up

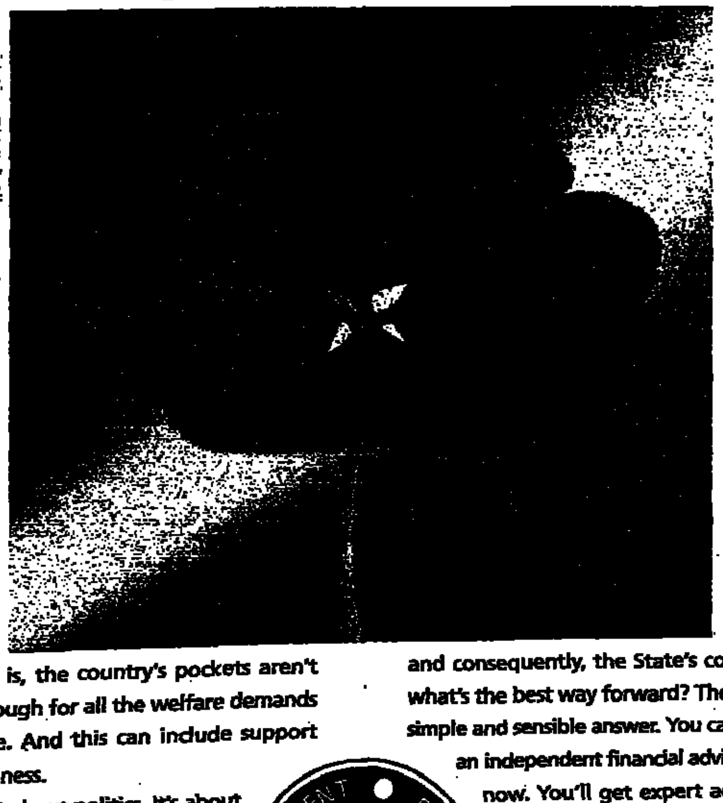
THE Inland Revenue's plans for self-assessment of tax will place a huge burden on employers because tax rules have not been simplified, a leading firm of tax advisers claims (Marianne Curphey writes).

Implementation of the new system should be delayed to avoid mistakes, according to the London firm, Ernst & Young. Otherwise businesses which offer staff perks face having to quantify complex taxable benefits, with harsh penalties if they get it wrong. They will also have to act as advisers as well as unpaid tax collectors. Richard Rees-Pulley, national personal tax partner, said: "The chance for a much-needed fundamental rethink of the UK's tax system is being wasted by an obsession with an artificial deadline. Self-assessment is clearly going to be introduced in April 1997, but we urge the Government to accept that a delay is essential if it is to work."

The Revenue is shedding 12,000 jobs as a result of the changes.

If illness stopped you working, the State might be unable to help.

What solution have you picked?



The fact is, the country's pockets aren't deep enough for all the welfare demands we make. And this can include support during illness.

It's not about politics. It's about the way this country – and much of Europe – is developing. According to the experts, more and more of us are living to a greater age. Yet on average, we're tending to have fewer children. You can imagine the financial burden this puts on the shrinking number of taxpayers – and consequently, the State's coffers. So what's the best way forward? There's one simple and sensible answer. You can talk to an independent financial adviser, right now. You'll get expert advice on your future finances. And because that advice will be impartial, you can be sure you'll get the right answer for your individual circumstances. So call us today on the number below for a free information pack. Because some things are too important to trust to luck. 0117 971 1177

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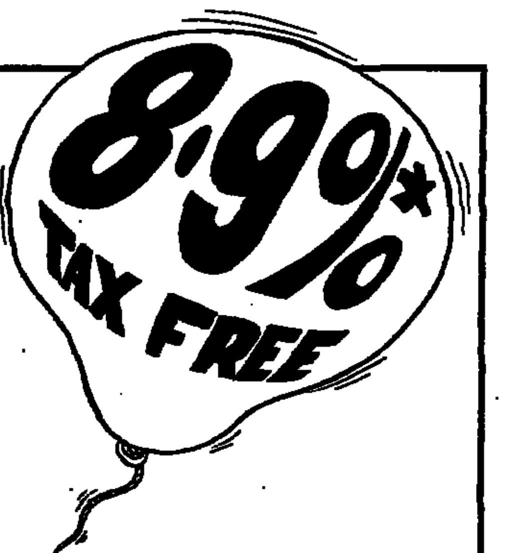
The one that got away.



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The tax regime under which PEPs exist could change in the future.

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Fidelity to cater for busy investors

Fidelity Brokerage has launched a new service for independent investors who trade 25 or more times a year — regardless of the size of the deal. Fidelity *Active*Trader Service offers direct access to registered dealers, a designated nominee and excess ICS insurance protection of £5 million. Commission will be charged at £15 for deals up to £1,500, with the maximum reduced to £200. *Active*Trader users can also take advantage of Fidelity's other services, including dealing in equity markets and fixed-interest securities worldwide. The annual membership fee is £40. Call 0800 222 190 for further information.

■ Legal & General is starting a campaign to encourage small companies and their employees to debate the merits of employee benefit schemes. An *Ask the Boss* guide has been produced, containing information on state, company and personal pensions, long-term disability income, and permanent health schemes. For a copy of the guide, call 01737 375226 during office hours.

■ Nationwide Building Society has produced a guide to house subsidence, explaining to customers how to make a claim on their insurance and what solutions are available. The guide includes information on how to recognise subsidence and landslip, what to do if movement of the house is suspected, and the main professional advisers likely to be assisting in the claim and in repairing the damage. Ask for a leaflet at your local branch, or call the Nationwide Claims Advice Line on 01604 796940.

■ Motor Breakdown Cover is the latest service being offered by Age Concern. The service, run in conjunction with Europ Assistance, will be available to all car owners over the age of 55. The inclusive premium for one vehicle under 11 years old is £45.81 per annum. Benefits include 24-hour roadside assistance and free call-out. The introduction of the service follows closely upon the launch of Age Concern's new motor insurance scheme. Details and a free leaflet can be obtained by writing to Age Concern Insurance Services, Garrod House, Chaldon Road, Caterham, Surry CR3 5YZ, or by calling 01444 442280.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at November 16, 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	5.10
	10,000	AIG Life	5.15
	20,000	AIG Life	5.20
	50,000	AIG Life	5.25
2 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.50
	10,000	AIG Life	5.63
	20,000	AIG Life	5.73
	50,000	AIG Life	5.78
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.60
	5,000	Swiss Life	6.00
	50,000	Swiss Life	6.20
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.90
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	6.20
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.80
	5,000	Brittania Life	7.00

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Britannia BS 01538 392808	Capital Trust	Postal	£2,000	5.60	Yly
Co-operative Bank 0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.90	Mly
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2438292	Albion	Postal	£10,000	6.00	Yly
Brmnghm Midshires BS 0645 720721	First Class	Postal	£25,000	6.20	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Investment Cert	1yr bond	£1,000	6.60	F/OM
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 244 0357	Investment Bond	2yr bond	£5,000	7.05	F/Yly
Brmnghm Midshires BS 0645 720721	Quantum Fixed	3yr bond	£5,000	7.25	F/Yly
Brmnghm Midshires BS 0645 720721	Millennium Bond	4yr bond	£5,000	7.75	F/Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS AND BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 948 1444	Postmark	7 day p	£2,500	5.90	Yly
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 50	50 day	£1,000	6.60	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal 90	90 day p	£10,000	6.80	Yly
Halifax BS 01422 333333	Special Rsrv	1 yr bnd	£10,000	6.90	OM

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.98%G	12.40%	Nil C
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable): OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

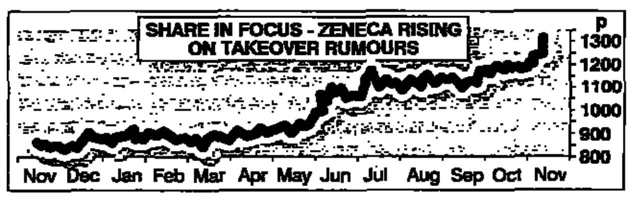
Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)

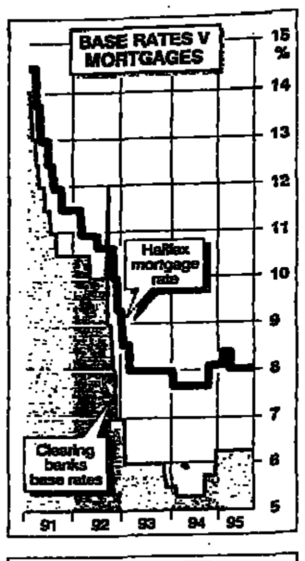
PIBS

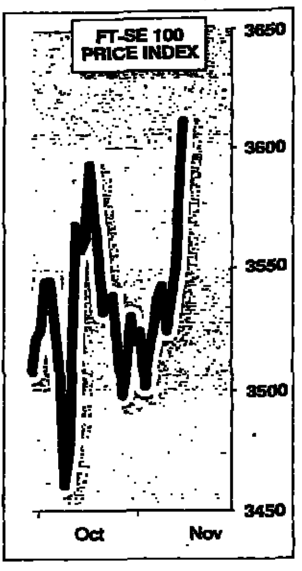
FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	97.01	9.656	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	119.29	9.729	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	133.19	9.742	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	135.78	9.836	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	131.45	9.870	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	122.82	9.851	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	112.59	10.432	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	91.46	9.566	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	124.35	9.469	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	141.88	9.582	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	135.35	9.860	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	111.28	9.652	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	130.60	9.652	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	132.48	9.509	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	132.19	9.718	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	9.24766%	103.63	100.00	1,000
First National	9.30000%	100.75	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101


SHARE IN FOCUS - ZENECA RISING ON TAKEOVER RUMOURS





LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.85	neg	95	6% disc 1 year, 2% disc 18 mths
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.95	£15k+	90	Fixed to 30.11.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	1.99	to £100k	90	6.00% discount to 1.2.97
Banks				
National Westminst 0121 234 2000	2.79	£15k+	75	5.20% discount for 12 months
Midland 0800 494999	2.79	£100k+	80	4.86% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.75	£15,001 to £100k	95	7.24% dsc 6 mth 2% 6mth,0.5% 1y
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.75	to £150k	70	Fixed to 1.12.96
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.95	£15k+	90	Fixed to 30.11.96
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.51%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Bank of Scotland 0131 243 5735	1.50	to £200k	95	6.49% discount for 6 months

NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c*	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-499	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond*	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.85			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bonds	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362808
8th Index Linked†	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000	60day	01253766151

[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 [2] Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble [3] Guaranteed when held for 5 years [4] Taxable but cred in full [5] 0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ [6] £40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential............Level	£10,377	£11,391	£12,758
Canada Life..........Level	£10,058	£11,227	£12,810
Standard Life ....Level	£10,136	£11,204	£12,584
Equitable Life.......Level	£10,277	£11,187	£12,381
Royal Life ....Level	£10,047	£11,183	£12,723

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential.............Level	£9,625	£10,355	£11,428
Royal Life ....Level	£9,313	£10,149	£11,380
Canada Life ....Level	£9,230	£10,069	£11,300
Equitable Life ......Level	£9,350	£10,027	£10,975
Norwich Union.....Level	£9,277	£10,025	£11,129

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Prudential ....Level	£9,237	£9,803	£10,599
Equitable Life.......Level	£9,046	£9,563	£10,276
Generali ....Level	£8,929	£9,547	£10,401
Royal Life ....Level	£8,855	£9,496	£10,413
Canada Life ....Level	£8,815	£9,474	£10,408

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	3.00	£15k+	95	4.74% discount for 12 months
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	1.89	no min/max	95	fixed to 1.10.96
Skipton 0800 446776	1.84	£25-150k	95	6% disc 5 months, 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Midland Bank 0800 494999	3.29	£30k+	95	4.36% discount for 1 year
Royal Bnk Scot 0131 523 4442	4.74	£15-150k	95	3.25% discount to 1.10.96

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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CHASE DE VERE INVESTMENTS PLC
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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	506.90	536.50	+6.00	...
UK Equity	645.00	682.60	+11.60	...
Property	509.10	538.80	+0.60	...
Fixed Interest	347.90	368.20	+6.10	...
Money	259.60	274.80	-0.30	...
International	429.40	454.40	+0.90	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	248.40	261.50	-0.10	...
-do- Acc	489.20	515.00	...	...
Equity Fd Inc	189.90	199.90	+4.70	...
-do- Acc	260.50	274.30	+6.50	...
Selective Fd	518.00	545.30	+5.90	...
Money Fd	393.10	413.80	+0.40	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	374.30	394.00	-0.10	...
Equity Ser 4	243.40	256.30	+4.70	...
Man Ser 4	709.00	746.40	+9.50	...
Conv Ser 4	340.40	358.40	+0.30	...
Money Ser 4	340.10	358.00	-0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	369.40	388.90	+5.10	...
American Ser 4	565.40	595.20	-0.30	...
High Inc Ser 4	751.60	791.20	+8.70	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	223.20	235.00	+1.20	...
Japan Ser 4	339.70	357.60	+1.80	...
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1711.60	1801.60	+34.10	...
European Fd Acc	402.30	423.40	+5.70	...
Fixed Int Acc	543.10	571.70	+5.80	...
Gtd Money Acc	346.20	364.40	+0.40	...
Intl Managed Acc	639.00	672.60	+9.60	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	354.40	373.00	+3.50	...
Japan Fund	248.50	261.50	-0.20	...
N American Acc	366.30	385.50	-4.20	...
Prop Fd Acc	454.50	478.30	+0.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1109.80	1168.20	+16.30	
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	387.10	407.50	+0.20	...
Equity Acc	1541.40	1623.10	+22.80	...
Property Acc	604.30	636.70	-0.50	...
Far East Acc	303.60	319.60	-0.70	...
Managed Capital	570.70	600.80	+7.90	...
-do- Acc	1185.10	1247.50	+16.50	...
Overseas Acc	1039.20	1093.90	+17.10	...
Gilt Edged Acc	521.40	548.90	-5.00	...
Amer Equity Acc	928.20	977.60	+9.30	...
Amer Man Acc	390.10	410.70	+4.00	...
Amer Prop Acc	119.70	126.00	+1.00	...
Distribution Bonds	24.70	26.00	+0.20	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	169.20	178.10	+1.50	
Balced Ser 6	781.60	822.70	+10.30	...
Opportunity Ser 6	178.20	187.50	+2.00	...
Distribution Ser 6	103.00	108.40	+0.60	6.89
UK Equities Ser 6	1059.10	1114.90	+24.10	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1159.30	1220.30	+19.80	...
North Amer Ser 6	544.70	573.30	-1.10	...
Far East Ser 6	556.10	585.30	-0.80	...
Europe Ser 6	422.50	444.70	+8.20	...
Intnl Ser 6	615.90	648.30	+5.00	...
Property Ser 6	567.70	597.50	-0.60	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	472.60	497.40	+5.80	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec Sb	191.20	201.20	+0.90	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	308.90	325.10	+0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	943.40	993.10	+20.30	...
-do- Initial	603.50	635.30	+13.00	
Gilt Edged Acc	413.40	435.20	+4.80	...
-do- Initial	266.80	280.90	+3.10	...
International Acc	427.40	449.90	+3.60	...
-do- Initial	274.00	288.50	+2.40	...
Managed Acc	572.70	602.90	+5.90	...
-do- Initial	368.50	387.90	+5.70	...
Money Acc	301.90	317.80	+0.30	
Property Acc	305.70	321.80	+0.30	...
-do- Initial	195.40	205.70	+0.10	...
America Acc	332.90	350.00	+4.70	...
Australia Acc	224.30	236.20	+2.00	...
Financial Acc	408.50	430.00	+10.90	...
500 Accum	478.50	503.70	+3.80	...
Japan Genl Acc	304.40	320.50	-2.80	...
Income Acc	573.20	603.40	+9.60	...
Leisure Acc	279.70	294.50	+6.00	...
Special Sits Acc	272.30	286.70	+5.10	
Univ Tech Acc	177.10	186.50	-0.90	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	874	874	+9.93	...
Income Fund	831.68	875.45	+10.52	...
Extra Income	757.57	797.45	+7.25	...
Worldwide Gth	512.66	539.65	+3.70	...
Balanced Fund	731.64	770.15	+12.30	...
Smllr Cos Recov	864.77	910.29	+5.09	...
N Amer & Genrl	407.42	428.87	+5.81	...
Pacific Basin	401.09	422.19	-6.14	...
German Growth	248.34	261.42	+2.62	...
Japan Growth	184.62	194.34	+0.90	...
The UK Gth Fd	234.48	246.83	+4.19	...
Contl Euro Gth	148.55	156.37	+4.40	...
Property Fund	412.69	434.42	-0.04	...
Fixed Interest	336.44	354.15	+2.55	...
Cash Fund	293.81	309.28	+0.26	...
Managed Inv	526.54	554.25	+6.21	...
Nth Amer Recov	277.66	292.28	-0.72	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	516.07	543.24	-0.79	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE				
PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 866000				
Measured Perf	171.80	181.70	+1.10	...
Performance Plus	179.50	189.90	+3.30	...
With Profit Perf	178.30	188.60	+0.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	202.60	214.30	+4.20	...
Euro Opportunity	238.80	252.60	+1.00	...
North Amer Opp	183.20	193.80	-2.40	...
Far East Opp	183.50	194.10	-4.90	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	158.90	167.30	+30.40	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	193.30	204.50	+0.20	...
Fixed Int	208.90	221.00	+2.10	...
Cash	163.00	172.40	+0.20	6.74
Overseas	206.60	218.80	+3.80	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	364.00	383.20	+2.60	...
UK Equity	642.40	676.30	+13.00	...
Property	255.30	268.80	+0.20	...
Money Market	261.00	274.80	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	311.80	328.30	+2.40	...
Japan	345.10	363.30	-4.40	...
North America	171.00	180.00	-2.20	...
International	329.60	347.00	+1.40	...
European	311.60	328.00	+1.60	...
Far East	132.20	139.20	-0.70	...
CANADA LIFE				
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth 1	277.80	...	...	...
Managed	357.50	376.40	-0.20	...
Property	239.50	252.20	-0.60	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	256.90	270.50	+2.10	...
Equity	408.40	429.90	+5.90	...
Cash	223.30	235.10	+0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	418.50	440.60	+9.40	...
CLife Intl Fd	374.40	394.20	+4.50	...
Managed Fund	777.80	818.70	+11.90	...
Property Fund	552.30	581.40	+0.90	...
Equity Fund	1021.80	1075.60	+21.00	...
Gilt Edged Fd	659.60	694.30	+9.10	...
Deposit Fund	342.10	360.10	...	...
Investment Fd	439.50	461.50	+9.70	...
International	582.90	613.60	+6.50	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	162.10	170.70		
Managed Fund	683.70	719.50	+6.10	
Equity Fund	399.60	420.70	+3.00	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	309.90	326.30	+3.90	...
Ruby	184.20	193.90	+1.80	...
Emerald	153.10	161.20	+0.90	...
Equity	358.30	377.20	+6.60	...
Property	231.30	243.50	-0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	218.00	229.50	+2.30	...
Indexed Secs	178.30	187.70	+1.00	...
Cash	194.80	205.10	+0.20	...
Nth American	263.90	277.80	+2.10	
Far East	321.90	338.90	-2.10	...
International	252.40	265.70	+2.30	...
Special Sits	376.10	396.00	+3.60	
Intl Income	318.00	334.80	+4.70	...
American Inc	219.70	231.30	+2.00	...
European	356.60	375.40	+6.70	...
Japanese	131.80	138.80	-0.10	...
SE Asia	363.10	382.30	+0.90	
With Profits Reg	174.80	184.10	+0.20	...
-do- Spec	174.80	184.10	+0.20	
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	357.00	375.80	+5.60	
Equity	435.10	458.10	+9.60	...
Property	211.70	222.90	...	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	276.10	290.70	+2.90	...
Index Linked	189.50	199.50	+0.90	...
Cash	264.60	277.50	+0.30	...
Nth American	329.60	347.00	+5.70	...
Far East Acc	303.70	319.70	-2.30	...
International Acc	321.30	338.30	+2.80	...
Special Sits	564.80	594.60	+6.40	
European Flex	507.10	533.80	+11.20	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units), Key 1	223.91		...	...
-do- Pacemaker 1	331.33	...		...
-do- Cash	210.27	221.34	+0.16	
-do- Equity	586.37	617.23	+9.95	
-do- Fxd Int	383.35	403.53	+5.22	...
-do- Managed	420.74	442.88	+6.90	...
-do- Property	281.96	296.80	+1.38	...
(Pens) Cash Cap	211.42	222.56	+0.19	
-do- Cash Inv	320.00	336.85	+0.34	...
-do- Equity Cap	1115.45	1176.27	+44.75	...
-do- Equity Inv	1233.39	1298.62	+49.35	...
-do- Fixed Cap	415.48	437.36	+4.99	...
-do- Fixed Inv	625.64	658.55	+7.99	...
-do- Index Cap	208.48	219.46	+0.87	...
-do- Index Inv	315.54	332.16	+1.35	...
-do- Mngd Cap	615.36	647.76	+13.90	...
-do- Mngd Inv	931.37	980.40	+21.07	...
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) 1	784.24		+5.94	
Var Ann (5) 1	99.05		+0.73	...
Prime Managed	439.50	462.70	+7.50	...
Prime UK Equity	547.20	576.00	+11.20	...
Prime Int Equity	316.60	333.30	+4.40	
Prime Property	252.90	266.20	+0.20	
Prime Fxd Int	248.10	261.20	+2.70	...
Prime Index-Lnk	179.93	189.38	+1.30	...
Prime Cash	214.00	225.30	...	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1184.80	1247.10	+3.30	...
Equity Fund	1724.70	1815.40	-0.10	...
CROWN FINANCIAL				
Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 01483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	642.20	675.40	+5.90	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	398.50	419.40	+4.30	...
Life Equity Acc	918.90	966.40	+18.40	...
Life Money Acc	311.10	327.40	+0.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Life Inv Tst Acc	840.10	884.30	+9.30	...
Life Intl Acc	516.20	542.90	+0.90	...
Life High Inc Acc	866.90	911.70	+11.90	...
Life Property Acc	245.30	258.20	+0.40	...
Crown Brit Inv A	1416.60	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	781.30	822.40	+2.70	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Secure Fund	182.30	191.90	+0.20	...
Managed Fund	259.80	273.50	+4.80	...
-do- Series 2	172.00	181.10	+3.20	...
Adventurous Fd	212.90	224.20	+2.20	...
-do- Series 2	164.80	173.50	+1.70	...
Equity Mngd Fd	258.90	272.60	+6.20	...
-do- Series 2	173.50	182.70	+4.20	...
UK Pref Fxd Int	153.30	161.40	+1.60	...
UK Equity Fund	184.20	193.90	+4.50	...
Property Fund	121.60	128.00	-0.10	...
Envrnmnl Opps	177.80	187.20	+1.90	...
Euro Fund	204.60	215.40	+5.40	...
North Amer Fd	225.30	237.20	+3.40	...
Oriental Ops	222.60	234.40	-0.50	...
Japanese Fund	115.20	121.30	-0.40	...
Bri & West Life	129.60	136.50	+0.10	...
Bri & West Pen	149.10	157.00	+0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND				
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	300.50	311.30	+4.20	2.94
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	331.30	348.80	+5.70	...
UK Equity	446.50	470.10	+9.90	...
Stewardship	397.00	417.40	+7.00	...
Overseas Equity	304.20	320.30	+4.20	...
North American	169.20	178.10	+2.00	...
Pacific Basin	162.70	171.30	-0.60	...
European	253.30	266.70	+6.00	...
Property	190.50	200.50	+0.10	...
Fixed Interest	253.10	266.50	+3.40	...
Index Linked	177.80	187.20	+0.80	...
Cash	198.10	210.50	+0.10	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	577.10	607.40	+6.20	
Managed	764.10	784.20	+11.60	...
Deposit	353.70	372.30	+0.30	...
Property	483.90	509.30	-3.10	...
American	477.90	503.70	+6.30	
Australian	545.20	573.90	+4.70	...
European	613.60	645.80	+16.40	...
Income Acc	812.10	854.80	+11.90	...
-do- Dist	475.30	500.32	+9.00	4.64
International	327.40	346.70	+4.10	
Japan Smaller	446.10	469.50	-6.00	...
Singapore & Mal	372.10	391.50	-2.90	...
Smaller Cos	436.47	459.51	+15.20	...
Tokyo Fund	620.90	653.50	-16.70	
UK Equity	652.90	[illegible]	+12.50	...
CCM Vangd Mg	918.50	961.30	+9.20	
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	213.60	225.00	-2.30	...
GT Plan Wwide	537.90	570.20	+3.90	
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	738.00	728.00	+9.10	
-do- Inv A	737.90	776.80	+9.60	...
UK Equity	448.30	472.00	+7.90	
Gilt Plus	214.73	226.10	+2.30	
Managed	330.10	347.60	+4.40	
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	226.80	238.60	+2.90	...
Unitised Profit	146.70	153.70	+0.20	...
UK Equity	317.60	334.30	+5.90	...
Fixed Int	207.10	217.90	+2.60	...
Index-Linked	174.60	183.70	+0.80	...
Cash Deposit	180.23	189.60	+0.10	
Property	183.27	192.70	+0.20	...
International	181.00	190.40	+1.70	...
American	187.60	197.40	+3.40	...
Japan	234.40	246.60	-1.90	...
Japan Smllr Cos	240.00	252.50	-1.60	...
European	197.40	207.70	+3.90	...
Pacific Fund	277.90	292.30	-1.90	...
Conv Life	138.10	145.20	+1.00	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange, London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	842.30	875.31	...	...
Managed Initial	498.40	524.60	+6.70	...
-do- Acc	726.70	764.70	+10.70	...
Equity Initial	768.30	808.50	+13.60	...
-do- Acc	1119.00	1177.90	+20.40	...
Fixed Int Initial	453.90	478.10	+6.60	...
-do- Acc	675.25	711.47	+9.90	...
Intl Initial	480.20	505.40	+7.20	...
-do- Acc	699.50	736.37	+10.80	...
Nth Amer Initial	216.40	227.80	+7.30	...
-do- Acc	286.90	302.00	+9.80	...
Pacific Initial	229.30	241.40	...	...
-do- Acc	301.20	317.00	+0.10	...
Property Initial	180.50	190.00		
-do- Acc	262.70	276.50	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	166.55	175.30	+3.90	...
-do- Acc	220.85	232.40	+1.30	...
Deposit Initial	206.30	217.40	...	
-do- Acc	292.60	307.70	+0.20	...
Euro Initial	115.50	121.50	+3.00	...
-do- Acc	141.50	148.90	+7.80	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD				
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	27.20	28.63	+0.35	...
Balanced	27.60	29.06	+0.45	...
Opportunity	28.75	30.15	+0.40	...
Deposit	24.47	25.76	+0.02	
Pension Funds				
Foundation	27.78	29.24	+0.42	
Balanced	27.90	29.36	+0.57	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Opportunity	28.60	30.11	+0.56	...
Deposit	24.77	26.07	+0.03	...
HAMBRO ASSURED				
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	181.80	191.30	+2.10	...
-do- Pens	226.70	238.60	+3.40	...
UK Equity	190.30	200.30	+3.20	...
-do- Pens	222.20	233.90	+4.80	...
International	155.80	163.90	+1.70	...
-do- Pens	170.10	179.00	+1.80	...
Deposit	144.20	151.70	+0.20	...
-do- Pens	172.70	181.70	+0.20	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION				
3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	380.20	404.50	-1.80	...
North America	409.00	435.20	+4.50	...
Far East Fund	564.90	601.00	-5.90	...
Global Managed	495.00	526.60	+3.20	...
Deposit Fund	237.40	249.90	+0.20	...
Prime Residential	139.50	146.80		...
European Fund	286.80	305.20	+4.80	...
Fixed Interest	63.80	67.80	+1.30	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE				
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	582.50	616.50	+11.70	...
British Fund	596.50	631.30	+12.20	...
International	587.40	621.60	+4.40	...
Dollar Fund	463.00	490.00	-0.10	...
Capital Fund	530.90	561.80	+8.10	...
Income Fund	764.30	808.80	+13.20	...
Property Series A	467.30	494.50		4.50
Property Units	772.50	811.20		
Financial Fund	677.20	716.90	+16.10	...
Managed Ser A	591.00	625.40	+8.50	
Managed Units	1061.60	1117.50	+15.50	
High Yield Fund	696.70	737.40	+11.40	...
Money Series A	299.10	317.10	+0.20	
Money Units	394.50	419.50	+0.40	...
Equity Fund	676.00	716.30	+16.70	...
Fixed Interest	390.60	413.30	+3.80	
Indexed Secs	197.50	209.00	+1.40	
European Fund	808.70	855.80	+21.60	...
Natural Res	304.80	322.60	+11.40	
Far East Fund	686.50	726.60	-11.20	...
Smaller Cos	542.10	577.70	+5.80	
Special Sits	553.80	564.70	+8.90	
Man Currency	276.50	292.60	+1.70	...
Japanese Tech	306.00	324.70	-3.50	...
US Smaller Cos	335.00	354.50	+2.60	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	257.80	271.50	+0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	54.10	57.00	+0.90	...
Fixed Interest	351.20	369.70	+3.10	
Gold	82.60	87.10	-0.20	...
Managed	657.00	691.70	+8.60	
Mngd Growth	207.20	218.20	+1.70	
Mngd Opp	217.40	229.00	+0.40	
Property	329.40	346.70	-0.20	...
Residential Prop	104.80	110.60		
TSB American	237.20	249.50	-1.00	...
TSB Bst Gwth	966.50	1017.50	+20.10	...
TSB European	291.30	306.60	+8.80	...
TSB Income	416.60	438.60	+7.10	
TSB Intl	451.40	474.70	+3.40	
TSB Intl Inc	312.50	329.00	+4.20	
TSB Pacific	393.10	413.70	-2.40	
TSB Prem Inc	[illegible]	281.80	+0.30	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3TF. 01727 49481				
Global Managed	625.40	658.30	+9.10	...
Global Property	310.00	326.30		...
Global Fixed Int	548.30	577.10	+6.40	
Global Equity	677.20	712.80	+10.80	...
Global Cash	221.90	233.60	+0.20	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE				
Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	500.20	526.50	+0.20	...
Managed	451.30	475.00	+5.90	...
American	483.00	508.40	+5.00	...
UK Equity Fd	498.10	524.30	+8.00	
Japan	205.10	215.90	-0.20	
Index-Lkd	284.80	299.80	+0.60	...
High Yield	556.40	585.60	+10.50	...
Money	418.60	440.30	+0.10	
International	417.90	439.90	+3.20	...
Henderson Active	218.10	229.50	+1.50	...
Perpetual Active	357.30	376.10	+2.40	...
Growth Acc	705.90	743.00	+9.30	...
Gilt Edged	459.40	483.50	+4.30	
European	168.90	177.70	+2.90	...
Far East	202.40	212.90		...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 324000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.57	141.90		
-do- Acc	192.10	202.30	+0.10	
Brit Opps Init	159.40	168.80	+2.80	...
-do- Acc	202.10	212.80	+0.40	...
Cash Initial	169.00	177.90	-0.20	...
-do- Acc	299.00	314.80	+0.20	...
Equity Initial	719.50	757.20	+14.20	...
-do- Acc	1260.30	1332.80	+6.60	...
Fixed Initial	359.00	378.60	+3.40	
-do- Acc	636.30	669.80	-2.00	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	137.90	145.10	+0.70	
-do- Acc	208.00	219.00	+2.20	...
Intl Initial	329.60	347.00	+2.30	...
-do- Acc	574.20	604.50	+4.40	...
Managed Initial	502.40	528.90	+7.20	...
-do- Acc	882.10	928.80	-0.60	...
Property Initial	215.30	226.60	+0.00	...
-do- Acc	386.20	406.60	+5.40	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 0181 902 8876				
Equity Units 1	1137.51		+0.17	
Property Units 1	625.07		+0.21	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bal Bd Exec Unit	70.13	73.82	+0.08	...
2nd Equity Acc	675.00	710.50	+1.00	...
2nd High Inc Ac	645.30	679.20	+0.30	...
2nd Property Acc	243.80	256.60	+0.10	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	188.10	198.00	+0.10	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	490.20	516.00	+0.60	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	242.50	255.30	+0.40	...
2nd Deposit Acc	294.40	309.90	+0.10	...
2nd Gilt Acc	324.30	341.30	-0.80	...
2nd Amer Acc	836.00	880.00	+5.50	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	275.90	290.40	+1.10	...
2nd Index Acc	216.70	228.10	-0.40	...
2nd Far East Acc	433.30	456.10	+0.30	...
2nd Global Acc	186.00	195.70	+0.50	...
2nd Euro Acc	171.20	180.20	+0.60	...
2nd Japan Acc	183.70	193.40	-1.20	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	172.00	181.10	+0.60	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	135.80	143.00	+0.30	...
LONDON LIFE				
100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 9279179				
Equity 1	968.10		+22.30	...
Fixed Interest 1	455.10	...	+1.50	...
Property 1	429.30	...	+0.70	...
Deposit 1	304.30	...	+0.20	...
Mixed 1	640.00	...	+11.30	...
Indexed Stock 1	226.20		+1.40	...
International 1	312.20	...	+5.00	...
Equity A 1	224.30	...	+5.10	...
Fixed Int A 1	211.70		+0.70	...
Property A 1	188.50	...	+0.30	...
Deposit A 1	178.70	...	+0.20	...
Mixed A 1	210.10	...	+3.70	...
Index Stock A 1	176.90	...	+1.10	...
International A 1	194.80		+3.10	...
Equity P 1	748.90	...	+19.20	...
Fixed Int P 1	608.30		+3.80	
Property P 1	333.00	...	+0.20	...
Deposit P 1	361.90		+0.30	...
Mixed P 1	587.10	...	+10.50	...
Index Stock P 1	250.50		+1.50	...
International P 1	364.40		+5.20	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE				
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS 01392 283456				
Inv Trust Cap 1	592.20		+2.40	
-do- Acc 1	1034.30	...	+5.10	...
Property Cap 1	145.00	...		...
-do- Acc 1	242.90	...	+0.20	
Fxd Interest Cap 1	200.00	...	+1.80	...
-do- Acc 1	317.10		+3.20	...
Equity Cap 1	342.90		+5.40	...
-do- Acc 1	586.00		+9.70	...
Intrnatl Cap 1	235.50	...	+1.30	...
-do- Acc 1	398.40	...	+2.60	...
Gtd Deposit Cap 1	161.40	...		
-do- Acc 1	272.60		+0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap 1	354.50	...	+4.00	...
-do- Acc 1	611.30	...	+7.40	...
Moneymaker Fd 1	474.70		+6.30	...
Capital Growth 1	1446.00		+29.20	...
M & G				
Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	484.10	509.50	+5.10	...
Amer Rec Bond	532.80	560.80	-4.10	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	257.40	271.40	+0.80	...
Australasia Bd	231.40	243.60	-3.60	...
Commodity Bond	331.40	347.60	+2.30	...
Deposit Bond Acc	374.90	393.40	+1.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	1649.00	1731.50	+20.90	...
European Bd Acc	413.80	434.60	+7.60	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	813.30	854.00	+17.20	...
Far East Bd Acc	302.20	317.50	-0.70	...
Gilt Bond Acc	469.60	493.20	+5.90	...
Gold Bond Acc	159.50	167.50	-0.20	...
High Yield Bond	169.30	177.80	+9.10	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	220.60	231.90	+0.60	
International Bd	795.10	834.90	+4.10	
Japan Bond Acc	241.40	253.50	+1.60	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	229.50	241.10	-4.00	...
Managed Bonds	944.30	991.70	+8.20	...
Prop Bond Acc	351.60	369.30	+2.40	...
Rec Bond Acc	842.60	884.90	+11.80	...
MGM ASSURANCE				
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	246.10	259.10	+5.60	...
UK Equity Acc	358.90	377.80	+8.70	...
Special Sits	99.80	105.10	+1.80	...
Special Sits Acc	145.60	153.30	+2.60	...
North American	205.90	216.80	+4.40	...
N American Acc	300.10	316.20	+6.70	...
Pacific Basin	351.40	369.90	-1.80	...
Pacific Basin Acc	512.60	539.60	-2.60	...
Fixed Interest	291.80	307.20	+2.30	...
Fixed Interest Acc	426.10	448.60	+3.50	...
Property	170.40	180.00		...
Property Acc	260.90	274.70	+0.20	...
Deposit	153.90	161.40		...
Deposit Acc	224.00	235.80	+0.20	...
Managed	276.90	291.50	+4.70	...
Managed Acc	372.30	391.90	+6.60	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS				
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	429.00	451.50	+0.30	...
UK Equity	398.70	419.60	+6.30	...
Gilt Edged	609.70	641.70	+6.50	
Interest Fund	404.80	426.10	+1.10	...
Managed Fd	522.20	549.60	+3.10	...
Intl Equity	621.70	654.40	+3.00	...
North American	238.60	251.10	+4.00	
Far East	439.30	462.40	-4.90	
Intl Currency	264.60	278.50	+1.00	
NPI				
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	529.30	557.10	+7.60	...
UK Equity	685.90	721.90	+12.80	...
Overseas Equity	512.80	539.20	+6.70	...
American	461.60	485.80	+3.30	...
Far East	555.10	584.30	-3.20	...
Property	219.50	231.00	+1.00	...
Fixed Interest	418.20	440.20	+5.70	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Indexed Gilt	246.10	259.00	+1.30	...
Deposit	225.00	236.80	+0.20	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds				
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1571.50	1654.20	+27.80	...
Equity Fund	3492.30	3676.10	+79.20	...
Property Fd	590.40	621.50	+1.80	...
Fixed Int Fd	642.40	676.20	+7.80	...
Deposit Fund	363.70	382.80	+0.30	...
Intl Fund	262.80	276.60	+3.30	...
OLD MUTUAL				
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	325.00	342.00	+6.80	...
Fxd Interest Acc	257.10	271.30	+3.00	...
International Acc	259.80	273.50	+1.60	...
Managed Acc	232.30	245.00	+3.50	...
Property Acc	219.60	231.70	+0.30	...
Money Acc	160.60	169.50	+0.10	...
Spec Sits Acc	215.60	227.50	+0.60	...
Japan Equity Acc	112.10	118.30	...	...
N Amer Acc	169.40	178.70	-0.40	...
Pacific Acc	148.90	157.10	+0.10	...
European Acc	189.60	200.00	+4.20	...
PEARL ASSURANCE				
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	146.40	154.20	-2.60	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	328.50	345.80	-6.20	...
Inv Equity	1322.50	1392.20	+35.80	...
Inv Managed	920.20	968.70	+16.70	...
Ret Managed	1043.10	1098.10	+19.80	...
PROVIDENT MUTUAL				
Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2ST 01438 737800				
Managed Ord	516.10	543.30	+7.90	...
Managed Initial	337.40	355.20	+5.00	...
Equity Ord	802.40	844.60	+15.70	...
Equity Init	524.00	552.20	+9.90	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	212.30	223.50	+1.00	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	145.00	152.60	+0.60	...
Oseas Equity Ord	399.20	420.20	+4.80	...
Oseas Equity Init	261.00	274.70	+3.00	...
Property Ord	279.40	294.10	+0.30	...
Property Init	182.70	192.30	+0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	301.60	317.50	+3.30	...
Fixed Int Init	197.20	207.60	+2.00	...
Deposit Ord	214.30	225.60	+0.10	...
Deposit Initial	140.10	147.50	...	...
PRUDENTIAL				
Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	375.30	391.00	+1.70	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS				
1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	882.50	929.00	+14.50	...
Equity Fund	1711.90	1802.00	+36.90	...
Intl Fund	682.10	718.00	+10.00	...
Fixed Interest	605.70	637.60	+6.50	...
Property Fund	492.40	518.40		...
Cash Fund	378.70	398.70	+0.70	...
Pacific Basin	467.40	[illegible]	+0.20	...
N American Fd	312.40	[illegible]	+6.60	...
Euro Fund	302.70	318.70	+7.50	
Balanced Fund	172.70	181.80	+1.80	...
Strategic Fund	183.60	193.30	+1.90	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE				
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grwth (45) 1	814.80		...	...
-do- Acc	475.80	500.90	...	...
Op Prop	465.00	509.30	...	...
Op Equity	1090.00	1147.10	+19.30	...
Op High Yield	[illegible]	644.20	+2.70	
Op Managed	664.30	701.20	+8.00	...
Op Deposit	403	424.40	+0.40	...
Inc Gth	342.60	360.60	+5.30	...
Japan Smlr	237.80	250	-10.00	...
Managed Gth	290.80	305.50	+2.50	...
Gilt	465.10	490.00	+5.00	...
British	423.40	445.60	+11.00	...
Global Bond	125.40	131.90	+1.50	...
Global Inc & Gth	180.60	190.70	-0.30	...
Gold Share	84.10	88.50	+1.10	...
High Income	321.10	337.90	+2.30	...
Income	479.30	504.50	+6.10	...
Japan	412.50	434.20	-2.70	...
UK Smlr Cos	179	188.60	-0.60	...
Mngd Growth	499.30	525.50	+6.60	
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE				
New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 236 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	1080.60	1123.30	+13.30	
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	419.60	441.60	+5.20	...
Equity Fund	610.40	642.50	+8.50	...
Property Fund	335.10	352.70	+1.90	...
International	512.50	539.40	+4.70	...
Pacific Basin	257.20	270.70	-1.60	...
United States	308.00	324.20	+4.10	...
Gilt Fund	393.60	414.30	+3.60	...
SAVE & PROSPER				
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	821.70	872.70	+7.40	2.91
Deposit Fund (2)	388.90	411.60	+0.20	7.10
Gilt Fund	558.30	590.80	+4.90	8.01
Global Equity Fd	248.30	262.60	+1.20	...
Property Fund (40)	116.30	123.10		7.12
AG Bond Fund	192.00	203.40	+1.40	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE				
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	1043.00	1065.40	+11.00	
Fixed Interest	399.00	420.00	+4.80	...
Index-Linked	207.40	218.40	+0.60	...
International	486.40	512.10	+2.80	...
Property	305.60	322.00	+0.10	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cash	239.00	251.60	+0.20	...
Managed	511.30	538.20	+5.40	...
Cap Gteed Bd	127.90	134.70	+2.20	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE				
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	188.366	198.279	+0.16	...
Index-Linked	172.00	181.20	+0.70	...
Fixed Interest	191.90	202.10	+2.70	...
Mixed	280.60	295.40	+4.10	...
UK Equity	270.60	284.90	+5.40	...
International	273.90	288.40	+2.60	...
American	305.20	321.40	+7.00	...
Japan	225.80	237.80	-1.30	...
European	290.50	306.00	+6.70	...
Pacific	341.30	359.30	+0.30	...
Technology	458.50	482.70	-1.30	...
Frgn Bd/Crcy	251.00	264.30	+3.30	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	224.50	236.50	+0.20	...
UK Equity	397.50	418.50	+9.50	...
American	291.70	307.20	+6.30	...
Pacific	344.20	362.40	+0.40	...
European	519.10	546.50	+11.00	...
International	332.50	350.10	+4.60	...
Fixed Interest	253.20	266.60	+3.90	...
Index Linked	209.00	220.00	+1.40	...
Deposit	202.40	213.10	+0.10	...
Managed	312.90	329.40	+5.00	...
Worldwide	127.20	134.00	+1.60	...
Pen Worldwide	136.10	143.40	+2.00	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE				
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1811.90	1867.90	+6.00	...
Safety Fund	253.70	267.10	+3.10	...
Growth Fund	253.10	266.50	+4.00	...
Opportunity Fd	253.30	266.70	+3.40	
Cash Fund	180.60	190.20	+0.20	...
European Fund	378.30	398.30	+9.90	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	215.90	227.30	+4.20	...
Index-Linked Fd	192.10	202.30	+1.60	...
International Fd	302.80	318.80	+3.00	...
North American	273.20	287.60	+3.90	...
Property Fund	128.90	135.70	-0.10	
UK Equity	274.40	288.90	+5.60	...
UK Smaller	265.30	279.30	+1.10	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT				
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	292.00	307.40	+3.20	...
Equity	312.60	329.20	+4.50	...
International	281.50	295.40	+2.50	...
Property	233.00	246.00	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	230.60	242.80	+1.20	...
Index Linked	191.00	201.20	+0.90	...
Cash	193.20	203.40	+0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	870.80	920.40	+10.30	...
Cash Fund	351.20	370.10		
Property Fund	299.60	315.90	+0.10	...
Equity Fund	968.30	1030.00	+9.00	...
Fxd Interest Fund	490.60	517.00	+2.40	...
International	402.50	425.20	+3.50	...
High Income	791.40	842.00	+13.50	...
Far East	555.90	591.40	-2.00	
North American	638.50	679.30	+4.70	...
Special Sits	713.30	758.00	+8.50	...
Technology	925.50	984.00	-5.00	...
Extra Income Fd	430.20	457.70	+5.70	...
Gilt Fund	511.70	544.40	+2.00	...
European	161.90	172.30	+3.40	...
Adventurous Mgd	243.40	259.30	+2.40	...
Secure Mgd	158.10	166.90	+1.50	
Equity Inc Dist	127.10	134.00	+1.70	4.45
Managed Dist	115.70	122.00	+1.30	5.03
SCOTTISH WIDOWS				
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1013.30	1067.30	+13.60	...
Inv Pol 2	964.00	1014.90	+13.00	...
Inv Pol 3	917.00	965.40	+12.40	...
Inv Cash	327.60	344.90	+0.30	...
Mixed Fund	581.40	[illegible]	+8.00	
Equity Fund	604.50	636.40	+14.20	...
Property Fund	245.30	258.20		...
International Fd	537.70	566.10	+5.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	405.60	427.10	+5.40	...
Indexed Stock Fd	209.80	221.00	+1.00	...
Cash Fund	236.90	249.40	+0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE				
Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	414.10	435.90	+3.80	
Equity Acc	509.60	537.30	+5.30	...
International Acc	355.70	374.40	+3.70	
Property	230.40	242.50	-1.40	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO				
3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0131 225 2552				
Cash	278.40	293.10	+0.20	...
Equity	1136.80	1196.70	+23.10	...
European	180.40	190.00	+4.30	...
Far East	170.80	179.80	-1.00	...
Fixed Interest	429.40	452.00	+6.30	...
Index Linked	223.30	235.10	+2.00	...
International	657.70	692.40	+5.30	...
Managed	777.70	818.70	+11.60	...
Nth American	171.00	180.00	+2.40	...
Property	370.10	389.60	-0.60	...
Pensions				
Cash	438.60	461.70	+0.40	
Equity	1703.70	1793.40	+34.50	...
European	230.60	242.80	+7.00	...
Far East	136.90	144.20	-0.50	
Fixed Interest	689.00	725.30	+8.60	...
Index Linked	312.50	329.00	+2.60	...
International	949.40	999.30	+13.50	...
Managed	1126.70	1186.00	+21.50	...
Nth American	259.50	273.10	+4.20	...
Property	517.30	544.60	+0.80	...
Stock Exchange	254.30	267.70	+4.70	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
SUN ALLIANCE				
St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	741.90	781.00	+15.20	...
Equity Fund	988.30	1040.40	+22.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	440.20	463.40	+4.90	...
Index-Linked Fd	338.00	355.80	+2.00	...
Property Fund	531.70	559.70	+0.10	...
International Fd	716.90	754.70	+15.80	...
N American Fd	303.30	319.30	+5.80	...
Far East Fund	227.30	239.30	-0.30	...
Deposit Fund	310.30	326.70	+0.30	...
International Bd 1	897.01	...	+1.63	...
Worldwide Bond	172.70	181.80	+2.90	...
European	182.80	192.50	+3.70	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	731.60	770.20	+5.80	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	512.10	550.30	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund 1	617.00	...	+0.20	...
-do- Acc 1	573.70	...	+0.20	...
Agricultural Fd 1	855.10	...	+0.80	...
-do- Acc 1	819.70	...	+0.70	...
Abbey Nat Fd 1	459.30	...	+0.20	...
Abbey Nat Acc 1	483.90	...	-0.20	...
Investment Fd 1	395.10	...	+7.70	...
Investment (A) 1	379.60	...	+7.30	...
Equity 1	1444.60	...	+31.60	...
Equity Acc 1	1380.10	...	+30.10	...
Money Fund 1	496.90	...	+0.40	...
-do- Acc 1	474.10	...	+0.50	...
Actuarial Fd 1	652.30	...	+11.90	...
Gilt-Edged Fd 1	413.20	...	+4.40	...
-do- Acc 1	413.20	...	+4.40	...
Retire Annuity 1	1267.50	...	...	...
Immed Annuity 1	307.50	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life 1	235.60	...	-0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA				
Basing View, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc 1	1605.20	...	+19.20	...
Managed Acc 1	898.33	...	-0.40	...
Equity Account 1	1704.10	...	-3.50	...
Mngd Fund Acc	411.30	433.00	-0.20	...
Equity Fund Acc	567.00	596.90	-1.60	...
Prop Fund Acc	265.00	278.90	+0.30	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	326.50	343.70	-0.10	...
Money Fund Acc	229.50	241.60	+0.20	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	215.30	226.70	+0.80	...
Pens Pens Acct 1	2041.10	...	+14.40	...
Pens Mngd Acct	948.80	998.80	+5.60	...
Pens Guarantee	272.10	286.50	+0.50	...
Pens Equity	367.00	386.30	+2.10	...
Pens Property	309.80	326.10	+0.50	...
Pens Fixed Int	309.00	325.30	+0.70	...
Pens Intl	259.80	273.50	-2.50	...
Pens Money	248.80	261.90	+0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	208.00	218.90	+0.70	...
SUN LIFE UNIT				
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	965.70	1016.60	+16.30	...
Property Acc	311.00	327.40	+3.60	...
Equity Acc	1614.50	1699.50	+36.90	...
Fixed Int Acc	431.30	454.10	+5.30	...
Cash Acc	321.70	338.70	+0.20	...
Amer Equity Acc	445.80	469.30	+7.40	...
Japan Acc	287.90	303.10	-0.60	...
Pacific Acc	364.00	383.20	-1.70	...
Far Eastern Acc	824.80	868.30	-2.30	...
International Acc	628.90	662.10	+4.80	...
Distribution Fund	285.40	300.50	+3.70	5.09
European	207.70	218.70	+5.10	...
Deffrd Dist	182.10	191.70	+2.20	...
TSB LIFE LTD				
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants, SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	308.00	324.30	+3.60	...
Property Fund	231.80	244.10	+0.10	...
Fixed Interest Fd	238.30	250.90	+1.40	...
Money Fund	208.00	219.10	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	399.80	420.90	+5.20	...
WINDSOR LIFE				
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	760.30	801.20	+10.70	...
Money Fund	329.90	347.30	+0.40	...
Equity Fund	680.80	716.60	+2.10	...
Fixed Interest	297.80	313.40	+1.30	...
Property Fund	332.60	350.40	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Genl	658.50	693.90	-0.10	...
Income	804.60	847.80	+12.40	...
International Gth	672.00	708.10	+0.70	...
Capital Fund	678.70	715.20	+4.50	...
Recovery Fund	647.70	682.50	+0.30	...
Japan & General	265.00	279.20	-4.00	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.74	19.73	+0.03	...
Bear	21.38	22.51	+0.27	...
Owl	23.09	24.31	+0.28	...
Bull	19.56	20.59	+0.13	...
Stag	20.32	21.39	+0.10	...
Gilt Edged	19.99	21.04	+0.21	...
Deposit	16.34	17.20	+0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	25.80	27.16	+0.03	...
Bear	30.07	31.65	+0.41	...
Owl	31.91	33.59	+0.49	...
Bull	25.61	26.96	+0.18	...
Stag	26.03	27.40	+0.17	...
Gilt Edged	25.49	26.83	+0.27	...
Deposit	21.39	22.52	+0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	637.51	...	+4.00	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	383.91	404.12	+4.99	...
N Amer Equity	333.10	350.73	+4.20	...
Far East Equity	361.40	380.42	-3.61	...
Fixed	316.27	332.92	+3.40	...
Cash Deposit	212.66	223.85	+0.14	...
Property	142.82	150.34	+0.08	...
Special Opp	382.25	402.37	+1.72	...
Managed	336.30	354.00	+2.30	...
Index-Linked Fd	200.15	210.68	+0.15	...

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

Investors might like to think about wrestling with the Far East when buying a Pep

Look overseas for pep in portfolios

Fund managers are targeting international markets, says Helen Pridham

WEEKEND MONEY GUIDE

Though not quite on a par with the National Lottery in terms of popularity, there is little doubt that personal equity plans (Peps) have become one of the most successful investments of the 1990s. The winning combination of being both tax-free and highly flexible has made them an increasingly favoured choice among investors.

Latest figures from the Inland Revenue for the tax year ended in April show that more than £20 billion has been invested in Peps. More than half the total has flowed in during the past two years as awareness of Peps has grown.

Fund managers are now gearing up for their post-Christmas Pep campaigns. The end of the tax year is usually the busiest time for Peps, as investors are encouraged not to lose their annual £9,000 allowance.

Financial advisers now regard Peps as playing a central role in most investors' financial planning. "They are terribly important," Simon Philip, a senior manager at Binder Hamlyn, the firm of accountants, says, "because they have so many uses: for building up a nest-egg, mortgage repayment, retirement planning, school fees planning and so on; providing you can take a five-year view and let the equity market work for you."

The success of Peps with investors also appears to have secured their future in the political arena. The Labour Party has indicated that it would not abolish them if it was elected, though it might seek to refine them.

Very often, though, Peps have been sold on their tax benefits and this has led to some disappointments. Jason Hollands, of BESt investment, the firm of financial advisers, says: "Investors in Peps should believe that investing in equities is a good thing in its own right and be prepared for market fluctuations."

"Unfortunately, however, a lot of people invested in Peps in 1994, at the top of the market, and felt miserable when share prices fell. So they held back earlier this year and missed out when the market surged ahead during the summer. Now, with the market at a high level, they don't want to make the same mistake of investing when share prices are at a peak again."

But investors will need to make a decision soon if they do not want to lose their 1995-96 Pep allowance.

According to Mr Hollands, the answer is simple. "We are encouraging investors to incorporate international funds into their Pep. The surge in share prices this year has been largely confined to the UK and US. We believe that overseas markets, such as the Far East, still offer good value. With an election coming up in Britain in the next couple of years, international diversification also makes sense."

Pep regulations allow you to invest in overseas funds within certain limits. You can invest the whole of your general £6,000 Pep allowance in an international trust, providing it invests at least half of its portfolio in the UK and Europe.

Alternatively, you can mix and match and invest up to £1,500 of your general allowance in specialist so-called "non-qualifying" overseas funds, such as Japanese and Far Eastern trusts. Not eligible for inclusion, though, are trusts investing in certain emerging markets, such as Latin America. Global bond funds are also excluded.

Pep managers recommended by BESt investment that offer overseas fund choices are Perpetual, Morgan Grenfell and Gartmore.

Income-seekers could consider a corporate bond Pep, which were launched in July. They are proving more difficult to sell than first envisaged, though fund managers believe sales will gain momentum as investors get to know more about them. There are signs that this is beginning to happen. Fidelity has pulled £55 million into its corporate bond Pep, launched at the start of September, while Virgin managed to attract £16 million into its bond Pep in its first month on offer with an advertising campaign specifically designed to poach investors from banks and building societies.

When the first tax-exempt special saving schemes start maturing after Christmas, this is an approach that more corporate bond Pep providers will be trying.

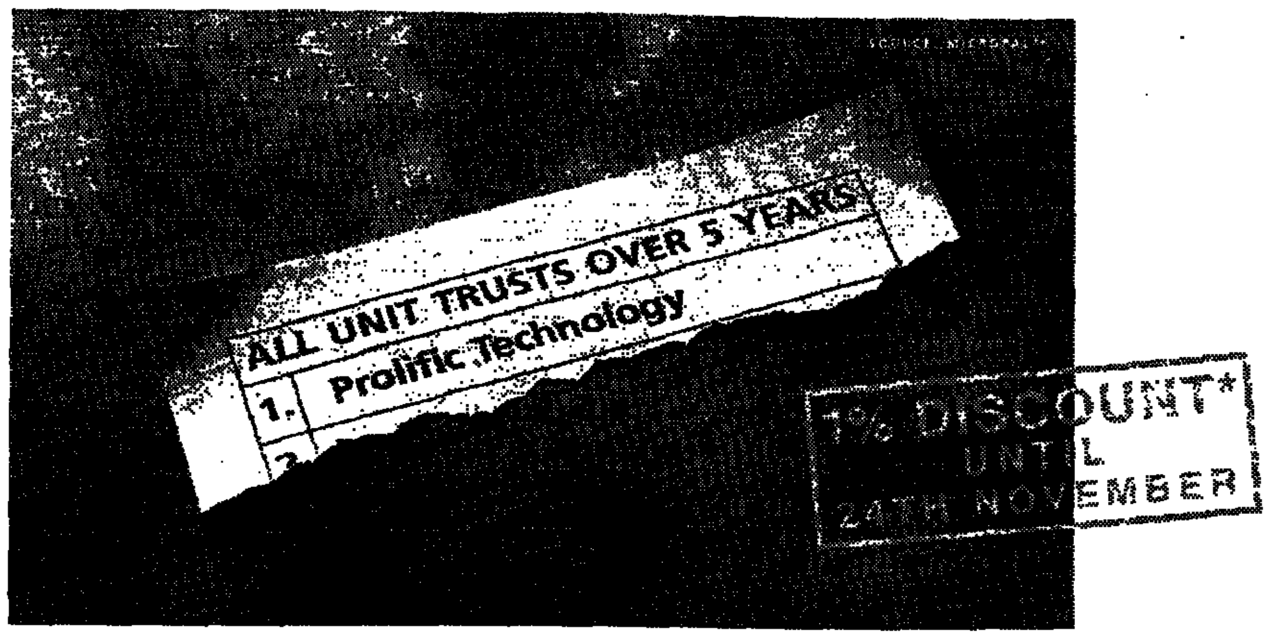
YOU AND YOUR PEP ALLOWANCE

- Peps can be taken out by anyone over 18, resident in the UK, for tax purposes.
- A *maximum* of £6,000 per tax year can be invested in a general Pep and £3,000 in a single company Pep.
- All Pep income and capital gains are tax-free and do not need to be declared on your tax return.
- A general Pep may be fully invested in eligible UK or European shares or bonds, or qualifying unit or investment trusts that are at least 50 per cent invested in the UK and Europe.
- Up to £1,500 may be invested in non-qualifying unit or investment trusts invested outside Europe.
- Your annual general Pep allowance may be invested with one company only. The single company Pep allowance can be invested with another management company. Each new year's allowances can be invested with a different manager. Previous years' investments can also be transferred to a new manager without affecting their tax status.

BESt APPEAL

BESt Investment is mounting a Christmas Appeal with Help the Aged. For a £7 cheque, made out to Help the Aged, it will send out the latest issue of *BESt Pep*, which contains recommendations. It will also donate 1 per cent of any amount invested in a Pep out of its commission. BESt Investment, 32 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6DF. Telephone: 0171 321 0100.

Weekend Money Letters appear on page 39.



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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 250 783				
Grofund Amer	190.00	201.10†	+ 2.70	0.31
Grofund Equity	269.30	286.50	+ 7.60	2.13
Grofund Euro	238.60	252.50	+ 6.60	1.04
Grofund Expt Bal	121.70	125.10		1.11
Grofund Gilt	75.71	78.05	+ 0.84	5.15
Grofund Japan	164.80	173.60†	− 0.30	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	609.10	648.00	+13.30	2.64
General Inc	523.30	556.60	+11.60	2.64
UK Growth Acc	413.30	439.70†	+ 9.80	2.85
UK Growth Inc	275.30	292.90†	+ 6.50	2.85
Higher Inc Acc	782.70	811.40†	+15.10	4.10
Higher Inc Inc	424.50	451.70†	+ 8.40	4.10
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	203.40	214.90	+ 2.80	5.63
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	93.54	98.80	+ 1.16	5.63
Nth America	332.30	353.60†	− 0.60	
Europe	318.30	338.50	+ 7.80	0.85
Brit Excell	82.76	88.05†	+ 1.96	2.95
Brit Portfolio Acc	111.10	118.20	+ 1.60	4.72
Brit Portfolio Inc	77.81	82.78	+ 1.19	4.72
Global Opps	92.63	98.55†	+ 1.08	0.32
Balanced Acc	59.58	63.39†	+ 1.22	2.88
Balanced Inc	57.02	60.66†	+ 1.16	2.89
Japan Acc	43.98	46.79†	− 3.17	
Pac Basin Acc	358.00	380.90†	+ 6.30	1.06
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	131.50	139.50	+ 1.70	7.17
High Inc Equity	175.70	187.90†	+ 2.80	4.19
Worldwide Bond	289.60	307.00†	+ 5.50	4.58
Capital Growth				
American Growth	330.80	353.80	+ 0.50	0.36
Asian Pacific	290.30	310.50	− 1.70	..
Assets & Earnings	287.90	306.20†	+ 4.20	2.79
Comdty & Energy	110.30	118.00	+ 0.10	0.11
Euro Capital Inc	149.70	160.10	+ 3.50	0.61
-do- Accum	160.60	171.70	+ 3.80	0.60
General	267.60	278.30	+ 5.10	2.99
Japan	115.40	123.40	+ 0.70	.
Mastertrust	149.30	159.70	+ 2.20	1.48
US Emerging Cos	174.10	185.20	− 0.20	.
Ethical	72.90	77.55	+ 1.29	2.57
International	121.80	129.60	+ 1.30	0.70
Dividend & Growth	66.04	70.26	+ 1.04	4.00
Global Grwth & Sec	70.01	74.75	+ 0.29	2.84
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	1960.00	2037.00	+ 3.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	52.83	54.86†	+ 0.62	0.56
Cash	50.48	50.48	+ 0.04	5.79
Emerging Mkts	61.11	64.77	− 0.68	0.05
European	129.90	135.90	+ 3.80	
Exempt	1011.70	1081.50†	+ 3.80	1.72
Extra Income #	48.97	52.38	− 0.20	6.49
Far East Emg Ecn	111.40	118.20	− 0.30	0.53
Fixed Interest #	22.99	24.14†	+ 0.07	9.73
Fund Inv Tst	164.00	172.60†	+ 0.80	9.01
Japan	176.50	185.00	− 4.70	
Latin American	43.79	45.95	+ 0.05	1.06
Pacific	75.11	79.39	− 0.31	0.33
Property Share	61.56	64.61	+ 0.75	2.72
UK Emerging Cos	69.30	73.12	− 0.21	1.69
UK Growth	48.62	51.48†	+ 1.03	2.28
Aber World Port #	76.84	78.27†	+ 0.80	2.09
Ethical	71.14	74.67	+ 0.57	2.36
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.96	50.96	+ 0.21	7.37
AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 549 3232				
Select Portfolio	93.77	99.75†	+ 0.86	.
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Resdl Property	97.50	104.00	+ 0.10	5.28
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	81.60	86.58	+ 1.09	2.37
Income Builder Inc	75.69	80.52	+ 0.82	2.69
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	257.60	275.30†	+ 7.50	2.83
Capital	456.30	487.60†	+12.80	1.70
Balanced	758.20	810.50	+18.50	2.45
Accumulator	1428.00	1526.00†	+36.00	2.66
Income Trusts				
American Income	55.40	59.22	+ 1.57	3.01
High Income	422.40	451.50	− 9.80	3.42
Equity Income	237.90	254.30	− 5.70	3.29
High Yield	259.90	274.60†	+ 6.00	3.18
Govt Securities	34.02	35.91†	− 0.41	5.90
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	182.40	194.90	− 4.70	0.36
European Growth	43.39	46.24	+ 1.42	0.01
International	172.20	184.00	+ 3.40	0.18
Japan	188.90	201.80	+ 0.50	0.01
Pacific	371.60	397.20	+ 1.50	0.01
Secs of America	518.60	552.50†	+12.10	0.42
Wwide Acqst Val	50.92	54.43	+ 1.06	0.22
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	575.30	614.90	+15.10	2.88
Conv & Gilt	44.56	47.63	+ 0.42	4.87
Smaller Cos	190.10	203.20†	+ 2.30	1.09
2nd Smaller Cos	179.70	192.00	+ 2.00	1.27
Recovery	151.90	162.30†	+ 4.50	1.61
Met Min & Cdty	162.40	173.60†	+ 3.80	0.89
Oseas Earnings	382.90	408.30	+ 8.70	1.85
Technology	210.40	224.90†	− 0.80	0.01
UK Special Sits	525.30	561.50†	+14.90	1.54
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Concord Out Pens	109.00	113.20	+ 1.90	3.04
Foundtn Persl Pens	64.93	67.45	+ 0.03	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	75.64	80.47	− 2.10	1.61
International	65.29	69.46	+ 1.58	.
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	286.30	307.50	+ 1.90	
Bond	118.30	124.40†	+ 2.00	6.73
Brit Smlr Cos	110.10	117.10	+ 0.60	1.69
Conv & Gen #	69.07	73.48†	+ 0.47	5.34
Europe	235.10	250.10†	+ 6.20	0.63
Euro Smlr Cos	105.20	112.80†	+ 1.70	0.63
Income Grwth	376.00	408.00	+ 5.80	3.84
Japan	307.80	327.80†	− 2.40	
Latin American	62.64	66.84	+ 0.88	.
Pacific	99.64	106.00	− 0.10	1.32
UK Smlr Cos	58.99	62.76	+ 0.66	1.29
Japan Fd	649.00	688.40	−12.80	..
Mngd Fd	188.60	200.30†	+ 3.40	2.97
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	325.80	342.90	+ 1.40	0.84
Capital Grwth	118.80	125.10	+ 1.70	2.62
Wwide Opps	197.90	208.30	− 0.40	0.96
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Brit Inv Fd Inc	383.10	399.10†	+11.10	2.61
European Bd Inc	95.01	98.38	+ 0.95	6.81
Exempt	76.74	81.86†	+ 1.84	4.14
Financial	90.54	98.83†	+ 1.83	2.55
500	488.40	506.40	+ 4.58	2.61
General	294.00	314.80	+ 7.20	2.80
Property	244.30	262.10	+ 0.70	6.30
Trustee	208.90	222.80	+ 6.80	2.27
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.60	100.60†	+ 0.10	5.93
Extra Income #	127.30	136.20†	+ 2.60	4.95
Gilt & Fxd Int	57.95	59.89†	− 0.43	8.34
Income	563.40	602.50	−11.80	3.77
Income Builder #	66.55	70.99	− 1.21	5.52
Intl Income	66.87	71.14	+ 1.29	3.30
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	130.50	139.20	+ 3.80	2.30
Leisure	147.70	158.00	+ 3.60	1.02
Recovery	445.60	476.60	+ 9.68	2.67
Smlr Cos Inc	47.92	51.39	+ 0.65	2.23
Special Sits	331.60	354.70	+ 7.20	1.46
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	154.60	164.40†	− 2.60	0.29
Aust Acc	256.00	273.70	+ 3.58	2.18
Aust Inc	156.10	167.00	− 2.20	2.18
Euro Grwth Inc	164.30	174.50	− 2.80	0.76
-do- Accum	177.40	188.50	− 3.10	0.76
Japan & Gen Inc	155.30	165.40	− 1.60	
-do- Accum	158.10	167.30	− 1.60	
Japan Spec Sits	71.99	76.76	− 1.12	
Univ Tech Inc	89.26	95.16	− 0.61	
Worldwide	178.03	188.90	+ 2.60	0.59
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	112.10	118.60		
Amer Smlr Cos	152.50	164.30	− 2.10	
Convertibles	52.94	57.83	− 0.85	5.70
Eastern	261.70	279.80	− 4.20	0.30
Equity Income	89.07	95.46†	+ 2.40	4.10
European Growth	329.90	349.90	+10.20	0.80
Europe	270.40	287.00	+ 4.90	0.20
German Growth	79.29	84.14	+ 1.11	0.50
Global Bond	68.04	71.66	+ 1.14	6.50
Global Growth	135.20	145.19†	+ 0.70	
Japan Growth	195.20	207.90	− 0.60	
Japan [illegible]	148.20	157.60	− 1.00	
Korea Trust	78.65	83.77	− 7.35	
Portfolio	136.80	146.30	+ 2.30	2.30
-do- Accum	254.50	272.50	+ 4.20	2.30
UK Growth	87.55	93.77	− 2.26	2.70
UK Smaller Cos	83.76	91.15†	+ 1.26	2.50
Select Managers	80.46	86.16	+ 0.95	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Grwth Port Inc	82.29	87.54	+ 1.56	
Special Oppor Inc	54.58	58.49	− 0.27	
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	121.23	128.99†	+ 3.11	1.54
-do- Accum	139.47	147.99	+ 3.56	1.54
Smaller Cos	122.74	129.88†	+ 1.56	0.79
Higher Yield #	50.29	53.20†	+ 1.19	4.30
American Gth Inc	81.72	86.47	− 1.23	
European Growth	148.00	156.61	+ 0.74	0.62
-do- Accum	150.91	159.70	+ 0.76	0.62
Global Bond Inc #	27.17	29.15†	− 0.36	7.17
Mngd Ptfolio Inc	45.67	48.31†	+ 0.78	1.46
-do- Accum	46.84	49.55	+ 0.79	1.46
Int Spec Opps	132.19	139.98	− 2.97	
Pacific Grth	122.18	129.29	− 3.85	0.38
UK General #	94.57	99.49	+ 3.03	3.17
-do- Accum #	88.09	93.21	+ 3.11	3.17
Japan	56.91	60.22	− 0.79	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	99.76	103.38†	− 0.41	8.59
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 488 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	67.12	67.98	+ 0.37	6.24
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Europe	169.40	180.30	+ 7.80	1.74
UK Growth	188.00	200.00	+ 5.00	2.10
UK Income	140.10	149.10†	+ 2.90	4.32
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 652 100				
Can Gen Dist	212.90	225.60	+ 4.90	1.76
-do- Income Dist	114.50	121.30†	− 1.80	4.12
-do- Accum	360.30	381.50	+ 5.70	4.13
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.59	44.09	+ 0.44	6.17
Growth Units	226.60	242.30	+ 5.90	2.06
Bond	175.00	184.30	+ 1.90	6.30
Intl Growth	224.30	238.90	− 3.30	0.31
North American	224.70	239.20	+ 4.30	0.28
Far East	272.60	292.60	+ 2.50	1.15
UK Smaller Cos	195.70	209.30	+ 2.00	1.45
European	89.40	95.12	+ 2.14	0.66
Japanese Growth	45.15	47.95	− 0.34	
High Income	202.80	216.90	+ 4.60	4.03
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	181.50	193.50	+ 2.60	
European Inc	85.91	90.94	+ 2.18	1.15
Smaller Cos (4-1)	92.27	98.16	+ 0.49	1.56
Growth	475.50	506.20	+ 6.10	1.86
Income & Growth #	436.72	464.60	+ 6.50	3.87
-do- Accum #	636.00	676.60	+12.90	3.82
Japan & Gen	65.42	69.43	− 0.49	
Master Portfolio	£109.11	£112.74†	+249.00	2.30
-do- Accum	£132.31	£136.72	+304.00	2.30
Special Sits	112.00	119.20	+ 2.30	1.93
High Yield	£14.00	£14.44†	+27.00	4.37

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	92.38	98.65	+ 1.69	2.82
American Portfolio	109.61	116.33	+ 3.78	0.98
European Portfolio	110.22	117.60	+ 2.24	0.49
High Income	51.37	51.49†	+ 0.56	8.00
Japanese Portfolio	64.33	68.44	− 0.30	.
Pacific Portfolio	137.18	147.51	+ 0.27	1.51
UK Inc & Growth	85.70	91.87	+ 2.15	3.14
Utility & Bond	57.34	58.00	+ 0.28	6.63
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	711.68	722.42	+ 5.14	4.40
Fxd Int Sec	158.21	158.83	+ 0.76	8.18
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	698.65	709.22	.	4.50
Investment Acc	£30.78	£31.23	.	..
Fixed Int Inc	126.56	127.06	.	9.05
Fixed Int Acc	210.57	211.41	..	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	89.06	94.06†	+ 1.31	3.16
Beck Bio-Tech	38.56	41.62	+ 0.41	
Acorn Ethical Tst	160.80	168.85	+ 1.71	0.73
City Fin Assets	73.13	76.79†	+ 0.85	2.12
City Fin America	97.66	102.57	+ 2.04	.
City Fin Intl	83.48	87.58†	+ 0.36	1.36
City Fin Japan	143.05	150.22	+ 1.93	
Friars Hse Cap	279.77	303.29	+ 1.74	2.41
Friars Hse Inc	190.56	206.66†	+ 0.04	4.61
Buckley Wrld Gth	133.43	141.43	+ 0.84	.
Falcon Cap Gth	139.15	146.47†	+ 0.56	..
Falconmost Intl	147.03	154.77†	+ 0.21	
J Std Inc/Gth Inc	57.23	60.10	+ 0.77	1.98
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	53.77	57.05	− 0.22	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	74.68	79.87	+ 0.75	.
Dragon Growth	63.78	68.19	− 0.19	1.07
Equity High Inc	87.31	93.48	+ 1.31	4.08
-do- Accum	121.22	129.79	+ 1.82	4.08
Extra Income Inc	26.44	27.88	+ 0.30	7.43
Extra Income Acc	27.51	28.99	+ 0.20	7.43
European Gwth	57.21	60.86	+ 1.95	1.17
Evergreen	27.70	29.62	+ 0.38	.
General Equity	92.78	98.44	+ 2.44	3.01
Japan Growth	47.89	51.22	− 0.65	
Pedigree Gwth	56.06	60.18	+ 1.08	2.86
Ped Sm Cos Inc	32.77	34.86†	+ 0.39	1.69
-do- Accum	34.51	36.71	+ 0.41	1.69
Retirement Inc #	26.82	28.53	+ 0.38	5.98
Special Sits	42.24	44.94	+ 1.09	2.22
UK & Overseas	52.94	56.32	+ 0.82	0.82
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Capital	74.22	77.19	+ 1.60	1.97
Balanced	64.73	67.32	+ 1.07	4.17
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds:				
Equity Inc	170.40	181.28†	+ 5.98	4.83
Fixed & Convertible	40.03	42.59†	+ 0.43	5.83
Monthly Inc Plus	48.95	52.07	+ 0.39	8.60
Preference Share	45.71	48.63†	+ 0.19	8.02
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	128.86	137.09†	+ 3.59	5.93
Managed Fund	72.16	76.77†	+ 1.45	3.07
UK Growth Funds:				
Smaller Cos	42.27	44.97	+ 0.43	1.81
-do- Accum	49.20	52.34	+ 0.49	1.81
UK & General	87.42	93.00†	+ 2.37	2.75
-do- Accum	112.19	119.35†	+ 3.04	2.75
UK Growth	163.19	173.61	+ 4.46	2.33
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	198.33	210.99	+ 6.40	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	122.71	130.54	− 0.18	.
Global Bond	83.49	88.70†	+ 1.61	5.96
Japan Growth	111.34	118.45	− 0.78	.
North Amer Gth	202.16	215.06	+ 3.73	
Oriental Growth	73.39	78.07	− 0.21	0.07
Worldwide Growth	68.71	73.10†	+ 1.32	0.11
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.98	91.98†	+ 0.08	6.11
Homemaker Fund	85.57	91.03	+ 1.63	1.66
Quilter Fund	143.52	152.68	+ 3.04	1.59
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	32.89	35.17	+ 0.49	3.38
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	178.00	189.80†	+ 1.18	1.68
Income	71.97	76.57	+ 1.21	5.55
European	65.10	69.28	+ 1.12	1.04
Recovery	167.80	178.30	+ 0.20	2.17
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	882.60	896.60†	−10.10	3.58
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	91.31	97.13†	+ 2.10	1.54
Income #	262.80	279.50†	+ 5.30	4.23
-do- Accum #	673.70	716.60†	+13.58	4.23
Smaller Cos	194.70	207.10	+ 3.20	1.00
-do- Accum	238.70	254.90	+ 4.00	1.00
Inv Portfolio	89.29	94.98	+ 2.08	1.58
High Inc Port #	77.12	82.04	+ 1.47	4.34
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 419 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1553.20	1686.10†	+21.30	.
Japan Small Cos	1098.70	1120.60†	+24.30	
UK Small Cos	1910.00	1990.10	+ 4.30	.
US Small Cos	1864.10	1904.30†	+23.10	
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	218.40	229.90†	.	2.88
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 315 2500				
European Gwth	297.30	314.10	+ 4.60	0.67
New Asia	207.88	221.30†	+ 0.80	0.26
Japan Growth	105.10	111.88†	− 2.60	..
Jap Smllr Co	429.20	455.10	− 7.30	.
Nth Amer	333.90	353.30	+ 8.40	0.83
UK Inc & Grth	227.70	243.00†	+ 4.70	2.92
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	155.70	165.60	+ 3.90	1.62
UK High Inc Inc	162.90	173.20†	+ 4.70	4.16
-do- Accum	215.80	229.50†	+ 6.10	4.16
UK Prof & F I Inc	59.97	63.60	+ 0.64	4.93
Environml Opps	92.58	98.48	+ 1.26	0.95
UK Smlr Cos #	60.26	64.10	+ 0.73	0.01
Extra Income Inc	47.91	50.96	+ 0.35	15.31
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
American	147.50	156.50	+ 4.70	1.12
Convertibles #	21.41	22.75	+ 0.14	6.15
Equity Income #	135.40	143.90	+ 2.80	3.88
EuroFund	52.39	55.38	+ 1.79	0.36
Financial	48.43	51.46†	+ 0.72	1.46
Growth & Inc #	264.60	281.10	+ 7.70	2.74
High Dist #	168.10	178.60†	+ 4.50	4.30
International	390.70	415.10	+ 3.20	0.12
Int Cap Inc	96.25	102.70†	+ 1.39	2.68
Latin American	23.26	24.71	− 0.44	
Pacific	75.10	79.79†	− 0.41	.
Pref High Inc	21.49	22.83†	+ 0.13	7.21
Tokyo	214.30	227.50	− 2.30	
UK Smaller Cos	253.00	268.80	+ 0.60	1.02
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
Brit Director Dlgs	96.35	102.61	+ 0.43	1.36
Growth Acc	232.24	247.96	.	0.38
Income	583.03	619.51	+ 5.85	5.23
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	210.70	224.20†	+ 2.50	1.23
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	85.52	90.02	+ 2.15	2.00
Ethical Tst	45.45	47.84	+ 0.73	1.23
Far Eastern	285.93	300.98	− 1.43	1.83
High Income	134.56	141.64†	+ 3.23	4.84
Intl Growth	120.34	126.67	− 0.17	0.54
North American	130.57	137.44	+ 2.02	1.64
Pelican	128.35	135.10†	+ 3.16	3.32
Smaller Cos	67.64	71.20	+ 0.34	2.78
Special Sits	88.26	92.91	+ 1.04	2.97
Tst of Inv Tsts	192.25	202.37	+ 2.67	1.24
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	195.57	208.05†	− 1.08	1.35
Smaller Cos Acc	346.11	368.20†	− 1.31	1.35
Recovery	48.73	51.84†	− 0.15	1.56
Recovery Acc	49.89	53.07†	+ 0.13	1.56
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	87.52	93.91†	+ 0.59	
Fd of Inv Tsts	47.46	50.62	+ 0.50	0.57
High Income #	41.18	44.13†	− 1.93	10.42
Warrant	51.57	56.05†	+ 0.55	
Zero Preference	41.86	44.40	+ 0.02	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	81.06	86.23†	+ 1.41	3.29
Family Income Tst	44.46	44.46†	+ 0.55	6.80
Family Trust	91.00	96.80†	+ 2.55	2.32
United Charities	263.50	280.30†	+ 3.50	5.02
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		6.10
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	27.89	27.97†	+ 0.23	7.16
Intl Bond	29.93	31.06†	+ 0.38	5.49
Income Funds				
High Income	25.26	26.55†	+ 0.37	5.43
Income Plus	119.80	127.40	+ 2.30	4.16
Amer Eq Inc	55.17	58.47†	+ 0.83	1.51
European Income	45.32	48.19	+ 0.99	2.38
Far East Inc	64.25	68.24†	− 1.26	2.41
Global Convertible	24.09	25.69	+ 0.20	2.72
UK Div Gth	27.78	29.54	+ 0.58	2.19
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	57.34	61.17†	− 0.43	
American	289.90	307.10†	+ 5.10	
Amer Spec Sits	158.40	169.00	+ 2.50	
Japan Smaller Cos	34.19	36.47	− 0.90	
European	195.50	207.90	+ 3.30	0.65
European Opps	69.55	73.96	+ 1.19	0.15
Global Priv	27.32	29.05	+ 0.04	0.77
UK Growth	106.20	113.00	+ 2.50	1.26
Growth & Inc	159.00	169.10	+ 3.70	2.77
Intl PEP	42.01	44.67	− 0.29	1.09
Japan Spec Sits	82.81	89.07	− 0.46	
Japan	177.10	188.40	− 4.10	
Managed Intl	312.60	332.30	+ 0.60	0.45
Moneybuilder	58.59	62.30	+ 0.61	
Recovery	49.88	53.04	+ 0.81	1.46
South E Asia	156.80	167.30	− 0.20	1.16
Special Sits	598.70	636.90	+ 7.40	0.72
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	111.82	111.82	+ 0.10	6.10
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2780				
Balanced #	138.60	141.30	+ 0.10	2.31
Inc Ptfolio #	89.37	90.97†	− 0.60	3.39
Cap Ptfolio	158.70	153.20	+ 2.50	1.48
General Opps	129.20	130.80†	+ 1.20	3.55
Growth Inc	33.60	34.29†	+ 0.71	1.36
Private Portfolio	437.80	446.60	+ 3.30	1.90
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Enq 0171 454 1434 Dlg 01277 261 010				
European	124.20	131.60	+ 2.30	0.59
Emrg Asian	143.70	153.70†	− 2.60	
High Income	21.18	22.50†	− 0.41	10.00
UK Growth	117.60	125.80	− 3.70	2.43
UK Income	107.00	114.10†	+ 3.60	4.36
US Smaller Cos	363.60	388.20†	+ 2.20	
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
-do- Inv Tst Inc	76.96	80.93	+ 0.17	4.20
Investment Trust	98.34	103.41	+ 0.55	
UK Smaller Cos	92.28	97.03	− 1.16	0.98

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	71.21	75.90	+ 0.15	
-do- Accum	71.21	75.90	+ 0.15	.
Amer Smllr Cos	595.40	636.80	...	.
-do- Accum	608.20	650.50	..	
Capital Tst	337.50	358.80†	+ 2.80	1.48
-do- Accum	490.10	521.20†	+ 4.10	1.48
Contl Smllr Cos	58.35	62.16	+ 0.87	0.50
-do- Accum	61.57	65.58	+ 0.07	0.50
Convertible	132.90	141.30	+ 1.80	5.24
-do- Accum	273.90	291.30	+ 3.80	5.24
Emerging Markets	61.53	65.73	− 0.59	
-do- Accum	61.58	65.78	− 0.60	.
European	127.50	135.38	+ 2.80	0.30
-do- Accum	134.10	142.20	+ 3.00	0.30
Extra Income	360.40	383.30	+ 5.20	3.85
-do- Accum	553.60	588.70	+ 8.10	3.85
Financial	144.50	154.80†	+ 3.10	0.51
-do- Accum	152.90	163.90†	+ 3.38	0.51
Gilt Trust	63.48	65.46†	− 1.08	6.37
-do- Accum	93.49	96.40†	− 1.58	6.37
Health Fund Inc	195.10	208.30†	+ 3.20	.
-do- Accum	195.10	208.30†	+ 3.20	..
Income & Growth	205.80	218.90†	+ 8.10	3.67
-do- Accum	321.50	342.00†	+ 6.50	3.67
Intl Growth	392.20	419.60†	+ 0.40	
-do- Accum	435.50	464.90†	+ 0.50	
Japan & Gen	173.90	185.40	− 2.70	.
-do- Accum	175.60	187.30	− 2.70	
Monthly Inc	178.40	189.70†	+ 2.70	3.65
Managed Port Inc	112.20	118.10	− 1.10	2.02
-do- Accum	128.50	126.89	+ 1.20	2.02
Quarterly Income	53.55	57.33†	+ 0.83	4.54
-do- Accum	59.37	63.57†	− 0.91	4.54
Recovery	344.60	368.40	+ 0.20	0.15
-do- Accum	406.80	434.90	+ 0.20	0.15
UK Growth	59.56	63.64	+ 1.09	2.49
-do- Accum	63.12	67.45	+ 1.15	2.49
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	53.24	56.63†	+ 0.89	0.48
FP Am Smllr Cos	156.70	167.50	+ 1.00	
FP Asian Growth	241.80	258.60	− 2.20	.
FP Australian	348.20	373.60	+ 3.90	
FP Equity Dist	410.30	436.40†	+11.20	2.55
-do- Accum	890.70	947.00†	+24.20	2.55
FP Euro Gth	241.80	257.20	+ 8.00	0.20
-do- Accum	262.90	279.60	+ 8.70	0.20
FP Intl Bond	60.85	64.39	+ 1.03	4.72
FP Intl Gth Dist	34.16	36.45†	− 0.57	0.53
-do- Accum	49.99	53.24†	+ 0.84	0.53
FP Pac Basin Acc	194.90	208.30†	− 0.70	
FP Income	56.35	60.64	− 1.09	4.57
-do- Accum	187.50	200.00	− 3.60	4.57
FP Jap Smllr Cos	293.20	312.70	− 5.30	.
FP Monthly Dist	73.11	78.02†	+ 1.21	5.46
FP Stlg Deposit	100.60	100.60†	+ 0.10	6.25
FP Tokyo	77.40	82.56	− 0.10	
FP UK Focus	38.06	40.92†	+ 1.38	2.63
FP UK Growth	184.70	197.00	+ 4.90	2.70
-do- Accum	362.70	386.80	+ 9.80	2.70
Stewardship Dist	367.30	390.70†	+ 8.50	1.97
-do- Accum	457.20	486.30†	+10.60	1.97
Stwdshp Inc Dist	73.69	78.39	+ 0.85	3.70
-do- Accum	98.14	104.40	+ 1.20	3.70
N Am Stshp Dist	113.80	121.00	+ 1.90	0.98
-do- Accum	121.60	129.30	+ 2.10	0.98
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	114.10	121.30†	+ 1.10	1.06
Open Cap Gth Acc	117.60	125.10†	− 0.60	0.10
Cap Gth Inc Inc	110.20	117.20	+ 1.10	2.20
Cap Gth Inc Acc	114.10	121.30	+ 1.20	2.20
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic	114.30	121.50	+ 1.20	3.33
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac	118.70	126.20	+ 1.20	3.33
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	260.80	275.80†	+ 0.30	2.23
Cash	49.36	50.10†	+ 0.04	5.31
Growth Portfolio	89.50	95.23	+ 1.88	0.96
Income Portfolio	65.78	69.56†	+ 1.12	4.43
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	205.40	219.70	+ 4.10	1.54
Dividend	92.22	98.63	+ 2.31	3.80
Intl Gth & Inc	231.20	247.30	+ 2.20	3.14
UK & Gen	47.39	50.68	+ 1.60	2.58
Fund of Funds	67.80	72.51	− 0.15	.
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
Amer Spec Sits	220.90	238.30	+ 3.90	..
European	610.80	653.30	+ 8.10	0.29
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	51.06	54.45†	+ 1.18	4.99
-do- Accum	55.58	59.27	+ 1.29	4.99
Far East & Gen	246.90	264.10	− 1.80	
Germany	121.80	129.10†	+ 1.98	
High Yield #	49.20	52.01†	+ 0.61	8.17
-do- Accum #	51.67	54.62	+ 0.65	8.17
Income Inc	169.80	180.80	+ 3.50	4.34
-do- Accum	186.40	198.40	+ 3.80	4.34
International	358.10	374.50	+ 3.20	
Intl Income	89.92	95.25	+ 2.49	3.20
Japan & General	419.30	446.60	− 9.20	..
Korean Securities	67.79	72.51	− 0.63	.
Orient Acc	129.10	138.10	− 2.88	0.25
Smlr Cos Div Inc	45.12	48.26	+ 0.29	4.18
-do- Accum	49.83	53.30	+ 0.32	4.18
UK Capital Inc	182.90	195.70	+ 4.10	1.46
UK Capital Acc	322.40	344.90	+ 7.20	1.46
UK Spec Sits	93.59	100.10†	+ 2.48	1.29
US & General	171.10	181.90	− 3.30	..
Wwide Spec Sits	147.70	158.00	+ 1.10	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	55.92	59.81	+ 2.04	1.77
Cash Trust	140.94	140.94†	− 0.12	6.18
Practical Inv Inc #	118.11	126.32	+ 1.19	2.71
-do- Accum #	277.19	296.46	+ 2.79	2.71
UK Index	164.56	165.39	+ 3.52	2.90
UK Smaller Cos	145.82	155.96†	+ 3.53	0.59
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	24.11	24.98†	+ 0.18	8.37
High Income	33.84	36.19†	+ 0.53	5.22
UK Equity Income	147.62	157.88	+ 2.54	2.76
Global Bond:	30.47	31.57	− 0.47	5.00
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	41.21	44.08	− 0.42	.
Global Managed	139.25	148.21†	+ 1.94	1.48
Gold & Intl Res	102.64	109.78	+ 0.09	.
Global Utilities	137.81	147.34	− 0.58	1.48
Overseas Funds				
American	173.30	184.33	− 1.15	0.87
European	118.25	125.35	+ 3.72	0.94
Euro Sel Opps	175.71	186.53	+ 4.80	
Amer Emerging	136.94	146.45	− 0.56	.
Hong Kong	136.38	146.23	− 1.10	1.97
Japan	231.88	246.10	− 0.23	..
Pacific Growth	202.05	216.07	− 1.38	.
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	232.30	232.20†	+ 4.19	2.11
Long Term Bal	254.83	254.93†	+ 4.45	3.08
Med Term Bal	212.25	212.25†	+ 0.75	3.27
UK Equity	270.97	270.97†	+ 8.16	2.45
UK Emerging Cos	154.84	154.84	+ 1.17	2.03
American	284.20	284.20	+ 3.14	1.10
Japan	121.35	121.35	+ 1.41	..
European	306.27	306.27	+ 9.15	0.85
Index Linked Gilt	179.25	179.25	+ 0.71	2.70
Fixed Interest	168.46	168.46†	+ 2.10	6.39
Amer Emerging	324.01	324.01	− 1.39	.
Pacific	225.89	225.89	− 1.67	0.77
Emerging Mkts	111.13	111.13	− 0.43	0.79
Index Strat Japan	144.42	144.42	+ 0.64	0.21
-do- Pacific Rim	173.90	173.90	− 1.15	1.50
-do- Cont Europe	169.43	169.43	+ 7.28	1.95
Index Strat USA	165.05	165.05	+ 3.28	1.86
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	109.43	116.41	+ 2.19	
Med Term Bal	102.00	108.51	+ 1.50	.
Long Term Bal	114.53	121.84	+ 2.13	.
UK Equity	125.33	133.39	+ 3.03	.
UK Emerging Cos	72.58	77.22	+ 0.59	.
American	131.88	140.29	+ 1.56	.
Japan	58.07	61.77	+ 0.71	..
European	127.28	135.41	+ 4.05	.
Fixed Interest	85.63	91.10	+ 1.14	.
Index Linked Gilt	79.63	84.71	+ 0.33	.
Deposit	83.52	88.85	+ 0.08	.
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	147.52	156.28	− 0.47	0.56
Broker Gth Port Inc	67.59	71.33	− 0.63	0.80
-do- Inc Port Inc	59.58	62.98†	+ 0.63	3.50
-do- Wwide Port	56.58	59.72	+ 0.27	0.10
Share Utilities	65.24	69.05†	− 1.60	3.15
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stg & Intl Inc	579.57	616.56	− 0.15	2.26
-do- Accum	644.60	685.74	− 0.16	2.26
European Inc	156.93	166.62	− 0.36	1.30
Amalgam Inc	157.49	160.42	+ 0.66	
N America Inc	346.27	358.37	− 7.84	0.82
Far East Inc	349.03	371.31	− 6.49	
-do- Accum	361.49	384.57	− 6.72	
UK Dvdd Inc	184.66	196.45	− 4.94	3.33
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7588				
UK Equity Inc	99.32	106.21	+ 1.06	4.40
UK Small Cos	57.47	61.46	+ 0.52	0.96
British Growth	54.12	57.21	+ 1.77	2.59
American Gwth	238.28	254.54	− 2.42	
Japan Gwth	65.06	69.58	− 1.34	
Greater China	172.58	182.54	− 1.27	0.43
Pacific Strategy	143.25	153.20	− 0.58	0.33
European Gwth	95.21	101.59†	− 1.60	0.72
Intl Growth	157.24	168.15	+ 0.64	
US Index (£)	16.3192	17.1949	− 0.45	4.60
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind	82.49	88.21	+ 2.40	2.33
Monthly Income	40.47	43.17†	+ 0.54	8.00
MIS Unit Trust Dealing: 0171 865 0003				
Gtd UK Index (£)	13.1056	13.8401	+ 2.79	4.50
GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 488 1212				
Small Cos	96.08	102.22	+ 0.49	1.50
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 8888				
European	529.93	566.10	+14.10	0.43
Gilt & Fixed	130.50	133.50	+ 2.10	5.66
Growth Equity	376.00	401.70†	+ 4.56	1.49
Income Trust	145.60	155.60	+ 1.30	3.25
International	194.30	207.50	+ 2.90	0.22
Japan Trust	122.70	131.62	− 1.56	.
Nth American	319.90	341.70†	+ 2.57	
Pacific	513.10	548.12†	− 4.60	0.25
Exempt	589.10	630.22	− 0.02	1.59
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
EMU Trust	108.24	112.86	− 2.25	6.49
Global High Inc	101.41	105.31†	+ 1.82	6.68
Corporate Bond	104.99	108.87	+ 2.17	6.89
Eqty & Bond Inc	109.07	115.63†	+ 1.48	4.74
European Growth	113.52	120.75	+ 2.90	
Intl PEP Trust	65.44	67.59	+ 1.82	.
Equity Inc	130.41	138.66†	+ 4.52	3.75
-do- Accum	185.21	197.37	+ 6.42	3.75
Recovery	383.72	365.42	+ 5.20	2.04
-do- Accum	402.60	428.22	+ 7.70	2.04
31 Wrec High Inc	129.07	131.35	+ 1.60	6.63
UK Emerg Cos	266.30	283.10†	+ 4.80	2.02
UK Smlr Cos	312.30	325.20	+ 4.30	2.54
Gbls Prtv Tst	96.51	102.67†	+ 2.45	1.42
-do- Accum	98.21	104.52	+ 2.46	1.42
Inc Share Tst	90.17	95.89	+ 3.10	7.76
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 0171 220 5050				
Growth	29.52	31.20	+ 0.62	1.86
Growth Acc	29.90	31.62	+ 0.63	1.86
Income	29.26	30.96	+ 0.50	4.52
Income Acc	29.92	31.72	+ 0.51	4.52
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 390				
Model Ptfolio	222.60	237.92	− 6.22	2.48
Smaller Cos	33.67	35.82	+ 0.33	1.34
HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT				
Enquiries: 01277 263 290 Dealing: 01277 234 772				
UK Funds:				
Special Sits	337.15	360.74	+ 5.47	1.31
Best of British	68.65	73.84†	+ 1.32	2.91
UK Smaller Cos	138.09	145.43	+ 2.19	1.78
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	292.68	311.82	+ 5.52	3.64
-do- Accum #	800.25	852.24	+15.11	3.64
High Income	330.04	352.20†	+ 5.39	4.63
Extra Income #	299.22	322.58	+ 4.09	5.33
Pref & Bond	47.40	48.99†	+ 0.22	5.50
International				
International	290.91	309.78†	+ 7.13	.
Global Bond	56.16	59.63	+ 0.36	5.21
Intl Port Tst	89.39	95.92	+ 0.93	2.84
Global Tech	240.37	256.63†	− 0.07	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	164.22	175.67	− 1.37	0.64
European	535.96	567.53†	+18.74	0.73
European Income #	85.62	92.92	+ 2.49	1.93

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	158.27	169.82†	+ 0.50	0.84
Eur Sp Sits	78.04	83.37†	+ 1.75	1.49
-do- Accum	83.59	89.31	+ 1.87	1.49
Japan Trust	212.16	226.39	− 1.09	.
Japan Special Sits	211.42	226.83†	− 0.13	..
Pacific Smlr Cos	216.81	231.86†	− 4.86	.
North American	279.93	298.42	+ 7.31	
American Smaller	136.94	146.36†	+ 1.24	.
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	109.65	114.62†	+ 2.32	1.98
Capital	187.26	196.09	+ 3.04	1.48
Dollar	425.75	445.81†	− 2.22	..
Enterprise Gth	367.44	384.75	+ 7.56	1.38
European	249.39	261.14	+ 7.12	0.45
Far East	292.17	305.94	− 1.06	..
Financial	929.37	973.18	+16.98	1.89
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	25.82	26.65†	+ 0.08	6.85
High Yield	108.77	113.89	+ 1.74	3.75
Income & Growth	152.46	159.65†	+ 2.60	3.16
International	271.73	284.54	+ 1.07	0.83
Japanese General	204.14	213.76	− 0.50	..
Japan Tech	88.16	92.31	− 1.51	0.69
Nat Resources	75.49	79.05†	+ 0.18	
Portfolio	78.25	81.94†	+ 0.98	1.34
Smaller Cos	141.25	147.98†	+ 0.91	1.14
Special Sits	176.28	184.58	+ 2.25	0.88
UK Emerging Cos	104.19	109.10	+ 0.47	0.89
US Smaller Cos	120.82	126.51	+ 0.51	...
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers: 0800 181 890 Investors: 0800 289 505				
UK Funds				
Balanced #	108.70	116.00†	+ 1.90	5.85
Capital	658.60	702.20†	+17.80	2.20
Income #	614.50	655.80	+12.80	5.30
Footsie Fund	80.25	80.55	+ 1.39	2.72
Trdo Index	113.40	120.00	+ 1.50	2.35
UK Index	154.20	163.20	+ 3.40	2.83
International Funds				
American Growth	551.50	586.50	+ 8.40	0.36
American Index	247.20	261.80	+ 4.40	1.29
European Growth	124.39	132.50	+ 4.80	0.15
Eurotrack 100	188.40	180.99	+ 5.80	1.01
Global Bond	22.90	24.15	+ 0.35	5.17
Japan Growth	273.10	291.40†	− 2.80	
Japan Index	77.38	81.88	+ 0.49	0.20
Japan Smllr Cos	30.04	32.06	− 0.79	..
Far Eastern Funds				
Asian	55.02	58.72	− 1.64	0.20
Hong Kong Gwth	109.40	116.80	− 0.50	1.37
Spore & Mlysn Gth	71.60	76.41	+ 1.39	
Tiger Index	187.50	198.50	− 2.30	1.14
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	40.23	41.82	+ 0.56	0.87
General Funds				
Managed	79.28	82.41†	+ 1.21	1.36
Rupert Child Fnd	93.95	97.66	+ 2.06	2.28
UK Growth	65.49	68.08†	+ 1.12	2.19
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc	84.45	87.79	+ 1.77	6.68
Gilt & Fixed Int	27.07	27.93	+ 0.27	7.85
UK Inc & Gwth	43.85	45.58†	+ 1.08	3.35
UK Income	343.80	357.40†	+ 9.40	4.92
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	56.85	58.94	+ 1.06	0.22
Amer Smllr Cos	133.90	139.20	+ 1.20	
-do- Accum	135.40	140.70	+ 1.20	.
Europe Gth	183.10	189.99	+ 3.60	
-do- Accum	189.60	196.70	+ 3.70	
Euro Smaller Cos	33.89	35.23†	+ 0.54	..
French Growth	84.86	88.21	+ 3.88	0.24
-do- Accum	91.04	94.64	+ 4.25	0.24
H Kong & China	79.58	82.72	− 0.42	1.44
Intl Growth	61.52	63.95†	+ 1.06	0.54
-do- Accum	62.38	64.84†	+ 1.08	0.54
Japan Gth	30.97	32.19	− 0.88	..
-do- Accum	30.97	32.19	− 0.88	..
Japan Smaller Cos	37.89	39.48	− 1.51	..
Glob Emg Mkts	86.95	90.28	− 1.01	.
-do- Accum	87.46	90.91	− 1.03	.
SE Asia	300.50	312.40	− 0.90	0.03
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	56.18	57.89†	+ 0.11	5.59
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
ector Value Inc	98.75	102.00	+ 2.43	4.90
ector Value Gwth	97.04	102.30	+ 2.45	1.96
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	185.40	197.10	− 0.50	.
Income	183.65	195.38	+ 3.00	3.12
UK Growth	71.67	76.24	+ 2.43	0.46
International	78.30	83.28	− 1.62	0.08
Ecology	90.53	96.31†	+ 1.69	1.12
European	145.70	154.99	+ 2.15	.
Far Eastern	285.10	303.20	− 4.00	
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	100.10	103.50	+ 1.90	7.43
Gilt Yield	118.50	125.10	+ 1.90	6.79
Global Income	216.10	229.90†	+ 2.80	3.77
High Yield	144.60	153.80†	+ 1.70	5.81
-do- Accum	456.20	485.30†	+ 5.20	5.81
Smllr Cos Div	54.99	58.58†	+ 0.65	2.93
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	122.20	130.00	+ 1.90	
Asian Growth	299.90	319.00†	− 1.30	0.26
-do- Accum	352.40	374.90†	− 1.60	0.26
North American	95.13	101.20	+ 2.25	0.16
European Special	119.40	127.00	+ 7.90	0.10
European	164.80	175.30	+ 5.70	0.44
-do- Accum	217.20	231.10	+ 7.60	0.44
Global Eqty Inc	111.50	118.30	+ 2.40	2.18
Japan	400.40	426.00	− 4.30	.
Japanese Special	224.80	239.10	− 5.70	
Smaller Cos	120.00	127.70†	+ 1.10	1.79
UK Equity Growth	43.93	46.73	+ 1.53	1.58
UK Index Inc	304.70	307.80†	+ 6.40	3.53
Bixham Tst	98.46	106.10	..	2.83
-do- Accum	98.46	106.10	.	2.83
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	273.67	291.74†	+ 3.11	5.32
Inc & Growth Inc	59.63	62.44	+ 1.07	4.30
Smaller Cos	67.13	71.42†	− 1.17	1.41
LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 01452 371 500 Dlg: 01452 371 623				
Growth Trust	274.22	291.73	+ 5.60	1.84
High Income	113.90	121.10	+ 1.70	4.29
International	101.43	107.80	− 0.90	0.55
European Trust	82.03	87.26	+ 1.64	0.87
Japanese Trust	40.64	43.23	+ 0.05	.
American Trust	107.80	108.20†	+ 1.00	..
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	407.30	432.10	+ 9.60	2.37
UK Inc Gth	438.50	465.30	+14.40	3.00
UK Income	302.60	321.10	+ 6.70	3.74
UK Sml Cos	262.20	280.40	+ 1.70	1.76
Euro Gwth	143.20	151.70†	+ 3.50	
N Amer Gwth	108.00	114.50	− 2.50	0.21
Japan Growth	62.34	66.14†	+ 0.02	
Money Mkt	127.949	127.949	+ 0.59	0.000
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 305				
Equity Dist	529.20	563.00	+12.10	2.59
-do- Accum	£10.68	£11.36	+24.00	2.59
Equity Income #	104.20	110.80	+ 3.50	4.30
UK Tactical Alloctn	62.12	65.96	+ 1.48	4.28
European	130.30	138.60	+ 3.90	1.61
Far Eastern	225.10	216.20	− 2.40	
Fixed Interest	52.18	56.57	+ 0.54	7.27
Gilt	90.29	95.75†	+ 1.04	6.41
Global Growth	75.85	80.68†	− 0.31	0.36
Intl Bond	55.48	58.90	+ 1.00	4.57
Japanese	71.68	76.25†	− 0.72	
North American	177.72	189.00	+ 3.10	0.41
Pacific Growth	101.70	108.20†	− 0.90	0.22
UK Index	69.20	73.03†	+ 1.58	3.07
UK Recovery	132.33	138.59†	+ 2.10	1.94
UK Smaller Cos	139.10	148.00	+ 1.30	1.45
US Index	73.86	77.95	+ 1.46	1.42
European Index	83.07	87.67	+ 2.29	2.10
Japan Index	39.59	41.78	− 0.23	
Worldwide	88.16	94.05†	+ 1.19	1.56
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
0181 902 8876 Dealing: 0800 262 621				
Growth	53.45	57.16	+ 0.79	2.15
Income	63.07	67.45	+ 1.39	2.99
Far East	50.73	54.26	+ 0.21	
North American	125.60	134.10	+ 0.60	
Global	102.60	109.79	+ 0.20	0.70
European	92.24	98.65	+ 2.52	0.66
Japan	101.00	108.30	+ 1.50	
Intl Currency Bd	62.09	65.78	− 1.32	4.25
SE Asia	95.72	102.30	− 0.90	
UK Gth Growth	98.19	104.93	+ 1.80	1.60
Recovery Trust	70.37	74.69†	− 1.24	1.48
Managed	69.10	73.51	+ 0.76	0.66
Cash	51.23	51.73	+ 0.03	5.14
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 239 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	372.40	396.70†	+10.90	2.76
-do- Accum	863.20	924.70	+24.40	2.76
Contl Euro Gth	71.21	74.96†	− 2.76	1.44
-do- Accum	78.64	80.68	+ 2.98	1.44
Extra Inc	272.00	289.40†	+ 3.50	4.10
-do- Accum	731.60	778.40	+ 7.24	4.10
FTSE 100 Inc	111.10	118.20	+ 3.20	3.04
FTSE 100 Acc	113.00	120.30	+ 3.20	3.04
German Gth	133.60	142.70	+ 1.70	
-do- Accum	140.10	147.50	+ 1.70	
Growth Port	602.00	640.50	+11.73	0.13
-do- Accum	619.90	659.50	+12.00	0.13
High Interest Inc	97.85	101.40	− 1.00	7.73
High Interest Acc	97.85	101.40	− 1.00	7.73
Hi Reserve Inc #	104.80	111.50†	− 0.10	6.42
Hi Reserve Acc #	108.90	115.90	+ 1.50	6.42
Income	520.60	553.90†	+11.30	3.49
-do- Accum	£14.43	£15.36	+33.00	3.49
Income Port	520.40	553.90†	+ 9.90	4.50

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MERCURY
ASSET MANAGEMENT

BRITAIN'S LEADING INVESTMENT HOUSE

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	587.70	625.30	+10.60	4.50
Japan Growth	106.20	113.00	− 0.70	..
-do- Accum	106.60	113.50	− 0.50	
Master Trust	62.02	65.98	+ 1.11	1.24
-do- Accum	70.46	74.96	+ 1.27	1.24
N American Gen	217.90	231.90	+ 4.80	0.60
-do- Accum	252.00	268.10	+ 5.50	0.60
NAm Sm Co Rec	170.20	181.10	− 3.30	
-do- Accum	173.70	184.80	− 3.40	
Pacific Basin	238.00	253.20	−10.60	0.58
-do- Accum	252.80	269.00	−11.30	0.58
Small Cos Rec	433.20	458.80†	+16.60	1.84
-do- Accum	589.90	621.80	+22.50	1.84
UK Growth	95.50	101.60	+ 3.90	2.05
-do- Accum	117.50	125.10	+ 4.70	2.05
Worldwide Gth	330.70	351.90	+ 4.30	..
-do- Accum	487.90	519.10	+ 8.40	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
American	78.08	83.55	+ 1.24	0.40
General	97.97	105.11†	+ 2.65	2.49
Income	68.92	73.84	+ 1.16	5.40
International	68.27	73.25	+ 0.99	0.50
Japan	56.18	60.27	− 0.03	.
Tst of Inv Trusts	70.49	75.63†	+ 0.70	1.30
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svce/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	462.80	489.40	+ 5.99	0.39
-do- Accum	577.70	610.90	+ 7.90	0.39
Amer Recovery	509.20	538.50†	+ 8.30	0.50
-do- Accum	588.70	620.50†	+ 9.60	0.50
Amer Smllr Cos	143.70	152.00	+ 1.00	.
-do- Accum	146.90	155.30	+ 1.10	..
Australasian	158.40	167.50	+ 2.50	2.56
-do- Accum	195.40	206.70	+ 3.10	2.56
Capital	897.20	949.80	+15.20	2.93
-do- Accum	1040.50	1100.40	+17.70	2.93
Charifund	725.90	732.80†	+12.80	5.90
-do- Accum	3565.30	3602.90†	+58.50	5.90
Commodity	403.20	426.40	+ 2.90	0.44
-do- Accum	583.80	620.00	+ 4.30	0.44
Compound Gwth	1033.60	1092.90†	+24.80	2.92
-do- Accum	1112.00	1175.90†	+26.50	2.92
Dividend	43.10	45.80†	+ 0.20	4.36
-do- Accum	187.80	198.70†	+ 5.10	4.36
Equity Income	342.10	361.80	+ 4.80	4.92
-do- Accum	454.00	480.10	+ 8.30	4.92
Euro & General	536.60	567.50	+ 9.90	1.22
-do- Accum	683.90	723.30	+12.60	1.22
Euro Dividend	76.10	80.50	+ 2.30	3.81
-do- Accum	93.80	99.30	+ 2.90	3.81
Extra Yield	441.10	466.50	+18.30	4.82
-do- Accum	1428.70	1511.00	+33.30	4.82
Far Eastern	337.10	356.50	− 0.80	0.51
-do- Accum	449.60	475.50	− 1.20	0.51
Fund of Inv Tsts	652.80	688.50	+ 7.00	1.97
-do- Accum	1230.10	1301.00	+13.30	1.97
General	65.70	69.50	+ 1.50	3.78
-do- Accum	187.40	198.20	+ 4.30	3.78
Gilt Income	61.18	61.25†	− 0.06	7.80
-do- Accum	177.55	177.80†	+ 2.34	7.80
Gold	65.40	69.20	− 0.60	0.77
-do- Accum	77.60	82.00	− 0.70	0.77
High Income	31.40	33.20	+ 0.70	4.52
-do- Accum	128.80	136.10	+ 2.80	4.52
Intl Growth	81.40	86.10	+ 1.60	0.92
-do- Accum	143.00	151.30	+ 1.70	0.92
International Inc	103.50	109.50†	+ 2.40	4.08
-do- Accum	160.00	169.20†	+ 3.60	4.08
Japan & Gen	40.40	42.70†	− 0.30	..
-do- Accum	43.40	45.90†	− 0.20	.
Japan Smlr Cos	142.00	150.20†	− 2.40	.
-do- Accum	143.00	151.20†	− 2.50	.
Managed Gwth	25.00	26.40	+ 0.30	1.79
Managed Income	28.90	30.30†	+ 0.60	4.31
Midland	59.10	62.50†	+ 0.60	3.44
-do- Accum	202.70	214.60†	+ 2.20	3.44
Pension Ex	1004.30	1039.50†	+21.60	4.33
Recovery	45.20	47.80	+ 1.00	2.68
-do- Accum	75.25	79.70	+ 1.70	2.68
Second General	72.60	76.80	+ 1.10	3.70
-do- Accum	190.80	201.90	+ 2.90	3.70
Smaller Cos	68.70	72.70	− 0.10	3.31
-do- Accum	138.60	146.70	.	3.31
Sterling Hi Int	25.39	25.40	+ 0.35	7.59
Treasury	25.12	25.17†	+ 0.03	6.35
Trustee	42.30	44.70†	+ 0.40	4.49
-do- Accum	176.90	187.20†	+ 1.70	4.49
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	88.68	94.34†	+ 2.47	1.45
Intl Bond	68.70	70.08†	+ 1.08	5.83
Intl Equity Growth	78.28	83.17†	+ 1.82	0.70
N Amer Growth	119.33	126.73	+ 3.44	0.84
Special Sits Growth	23.90	25.42	+ 0.57	2.27
UK Growth	413.56	439.97†	+11.29	2.76
-do- Accum	554.33	589.71	+15.68	2.76
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1395.70	1418.30†	+10.60	3.00
Income #	1025.80	1042.30	+13.80	4.10
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	156.90	160.60	+ 1.50	3.76

For Manulife see Canada Life

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Ptfolio	165.40	174.10	+ 2.30	2.17
-do- Accum	192.40	202.50	+ 2.80	2.17
UK Sel Ptfolio	145.30	153.00	+ 3.00	2.52
-do- Accum	171.00	180.00	+ 3.60	2.52
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	72.34	76.96†	+ 1.15	3.70
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	77.44	82.21	+ 1.83	4.05
European	91.89	97.55	+ 2.20	1.17
Income #	77.85	82.64†	+ 1.84	4.32
Nth American	78.52	83.35	+ 2.21	0.56
Far East	159.30	169.10	− 0.40	0.11
Japan	57.81	61.16	− 0.41	.
Emgng Mkts	79.24	84.75	− 1.34	0.02
Intl Growth	116.50	123.70†	+ 1.90	0.66
UK Growth	106.00	112.50†	+ 1.90	1.63
UK Smlr Co	50.61	53.73†	+ 0.39	1.38
Asian Opps Fd	34.26	36.84	− 0.27	0.09
Glob Gwth PEP	55.19	58.57†	+ 1.02	0.48
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	446.73	475.24	+11.07	3.74
Global Inc	73.47	78.16	+ 1.30	3.57
Brit Leaders	382.42	406.83	+ 9.72	1.72
Intl Leaders	214.85	228.56	+ 4.11	1.38
PAM Mg Bal Gth	65.51	69.10	+ 0.30	0.75
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0171 280 2080				
American	233.70	247.50†	+ 5.00	..
-do- Accum	249.90	264.80†	+ 5.70	
American Opps	108.50	116.20†	+ 0.20	
-do- Accum	110.20	117.50†	+ 0.20	
British Blue Chip	87.44	92.83†	+ 2.56	2.58
-do- Accum	110.60	117.40†	+ 3.20	2.58
Cash	100.40	100.40	+ 0.10	6.38
-do- Accum	142.60	142.60	+ 0.10	6.38
Emerging Mkts	101.10	108.70	− 0.30	0.13
-do- Accum	101.70	109.40	− 0.30	0.13
European Growth	270.00	286.80	+ 4.90	0.16
-do- Accum	292.90	311.30	+ 5.50	0.16
European Income	90.00	95.70	+ 2.42	3.01
-do- Accum	125.00	132.40	+ 3.50	3.01
General	556.70	591.40	+14.70	2.10
-do- Accum	1109.00	1180.00	+30.00	2.10
Global Bond	132.40	139.10	+ 2.30	5.30
-do- Accum	166.80	175.20	+ 2.80	5.30
Gold & General	202.10	217.30	+ 0.70	0.41
-do- Accum	208.60	224.30	+ 0.70	0.41
Govt Securities	94.47	97.39	+ 0.91	6.03
-do- Accum	188.40	194.20	+ 1.80	6.03
High Yield Bd	101.40	105.00	+ 0.80	7.05
-do- Accum	101.40	105.00	+ 0.82	7.05
Income	169.50	179.90†	+ 5.00	3.94
-do- Accum	272.90	289.60†	+ 8.00	3.94
Inc Portfolio #	105.10	111.40	+ 2.20	4.71
-do- Accum #	109.80	116.30	+ 2.20	4.71
Intl Opps	486.50	518.80	+ 8.20	0.17
-do- Accum	651.80	695.30	+11.20	0.17
Japan	164.50	174.50	− 0.40	..
-do- Accum	168.80	179.10	− 0.40	
New Europe	198.50	211.70	+ 5.50	0.95
-do- Accum	204.60	218.20	+ 5.60	0.95
Pacific	108.80	113.90	− 0.30	0.98
-do- Accum	114.60	122.20	− 0.40	0.98
Recovery	337.10	359.60†	+ 9.40	0.72
-do- Accum	437.10	466.20†	+12.10	0.72
UK Smaller Cos	57.14	60.95	+ 0.47	0.84
-do- Accum	65.74	69.59	+ 0.54	0.84
Portfolio	87.20	92.54	+ 1.76	2.49
-do- Accum	105.00	111.59	+ 2.20	2.49
Managed Gwth	106.90	111.89	+ 2.20	1.78
Managed Inc	113.10	117.40	+ 2.50	3.83
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	127.24	135.36	+ 2.47	0.18
Portfolio	72.80	77.23	+ 1.68	1.55
UK Income Inc	83.70	89.04	+ 2.25	4.89
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	64.17	67.15	+ 0.83	2.87
-do- Accum	69.51	72.78	+ 1.02	2.87
British Tst	96.53	101.10	+ 2.76	2.03
-do- Accum	113.30	118.60	+ 3.30	2.03
Extra High Inc	69.18	72.44	+ 0.58	8.50
-do- Accum	139.70	146.20	+ 1.10	8.50
FT-SE 100 Acc	62.01	64.93	+ 1.47	2.56
FT-SE 100 Dist	60.15	62.98	+ 1.42	2.56
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.23	58.51	+ 0.56	6.80
-do- Accum	169.40	176.30	+ 1.70	6.80
High Yield	226.80	237.50†	+ 2.20	6.09
-do- Accum	598.30	626.40†	+ 5.70	6.09
Income	303.70	318.00	+ 6.70	3.87
-do- Accum	683.00	715.10	+15.00	3.87
Money Market UT	49.30	49.30†	+ 0.04	5.56
-do- Accum	79.56	79.56†	+ 0.06	5.56
Monthly Income	89.04	93.24†	+ 1.33	4.80
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	118.30	125.80	+ 3.20	1.56
European Growth	113.10	119.90	+ 1.70	0.07
Gilt & Fixed	93.41	99.10	+ 0.99	5.80
Income	92.96	98.89	+ 1.96	2.58

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan Growth	49.44	52.40	− 0.81	..
Managed	76.01	80.88	+ 1.10	2.17
Money Market	90.50	95.83	+ 0.18	4.18
North American	100.40	106.50	+ 1.60	0.42
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	107.30	114.10	+ 2.80	1.55
European Growth	106.30	112.70	+ 1.68	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Inc	86.58	93.96	+ 0.82	5.59
Income	91.18	97.00	+ 1.82	2.65
Japan Growth	49.22	52.18	− 0.80	.
Managed	72.65	77.29	+ 1.98	2.15
Money Market	83.51	88.52	+ 0.08	4.15
North American	90.83	96.26	+ 1.34	0.51
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	107.00	113.88	+ 2.90	1.54
European Growth	103.80	110.00	+ 1.50	..
Gilt & Fixed Inc	81.48	86.45	+ 0.85	5.71
Income	80.80	85.32	+ 1.88	2.68
Japan Growth	50.33	53.35	− 0.81	.
Managed	75.44	80.26	+ 1.09	2.18
Money Market	77.67	82.33	+ 0.06	4.23
North American	101.50	107.88	+ 1.50	0.39
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
International (US$)	14.11	14.96	− 0.12	..
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 826 0826 Enquiries: 0171 826 0123				
American Gwth	432.30	459.20	+ 2.20	..
European Gth Inc	574.70	618.40	− 5.80	..
-do- Accum	580.90	623.10	− 5.90	.
Intl Gwth	212.20	225.70†	+ 3.29	
UK Equity Inc	204.60	217.60†	+ 4.30	2.92
Do. Accum	270.70	287.80†	+ 5.60	2.92
UK Ind Trckr Inc	177.10	189.30	+ 4.20	2.68
-do- Accum	213.10	227.80	+ 5.10	2.68
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	240.60	258.10	+ 4.30	1.08
Japan Tracker	72.48	76.77†	+ 0.54	..
Asian Tracker	197.60	213.70†	− 2.10	0.29
Managed Inc	170.30	181.50	+ 1.70	2.13
Deposit Inc	99.84	99.84†	+ 0.08	6.29
Europe	253.50	273.70	+ 6.40	.
Genesis	177.50	192.80†	+ 1.80	1.85
High Income	21.48	22.77†	+ 0.24	10.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
Acumen	101.80	103.90†	+ 2.00	2.47
Acumen Inc	83.99	98.10†	+ 1.83	2.47
Acumen Reserve	90.47	91.38†	+ 0.04	8.20
-do- Inc	74.15	74.89†	+ 0.08	8.20
American Growth	56.84	60.47	+ 0.88	...
Cash Income	49.59	49.59†	+ 0.04	5.96
Equity Income #	99.69	102.30	+ 2.77	4.75
European	78.45	78.16	+ 1.56	0.35
Smaller Cos	84.19	88.68†	− 0.22	1.20
W'wide Eqty	66.29	70.07	+ 0.51	0.38
Global Bond	46.08	46.59†	+ 0.77	6.52
UK Growth	102.80	105.50	+ 2.60	2.15
Pacific Growth	102.10	108.20†	− 0.70	0.75
Japan Growth	98.71	101.40†	+ 0.50	
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Ivest Equity	134.70	143.30	+ 3.05	2.51
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
0161 237 5322				
UK Growth	81.28	86.47	+ 1.69	2.08
UK Income	115.65	123.03†	+ 0.63	3.80
Higher Income	221.58	235.72	+ 1.27	5.20
Smaller Cos	88.22	93.85	+ 0.82	1.84
International	103.93	110.56†	+ 2.27	1.62
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
American Dist	116.50	123.98	+ 1.90	0.39
European Dist	129.50	137.80†	+ 3.20	0.20
Far East Dist	177.20	188.50	− 0.10	..
Global Care Dist	79.25	84.31	+ 0.35	0.67
Oseas Dist	1080.40	1149.40	+16.50	0.01
-do- Accum	1408.10	1495.80	+21.80	0.01
UK Dist	383.80	408.30†	+ 8.90	2.45
-do- Accum	770.10	819.30	+18.20	2.45
UK Extra Inc Dist	86.19	91.69	+ 1.34	3.54
Wwide Dist	112.60	119.10†	+ 1.80	0.30
Wwide Inc Dist	77.28	82.21†	+ 1.64	2.28
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER UT MGRS				
Dlg: 01277 690 280 Admin Enq: 01277 690 398				
Europe Inc	68.44	73.29	+ 1.52	1.09
Fund of Funds Inc	63.19	66.69	+ 0.88	2.25
North America Inc	61.34	64.74	+ 1.39	.
UK Equity Gth Inc	63.52	67.04†	+ 1.38	2.57
-do- Accum	67.56	71.29	+ 1.47	2.57
UK General Inc	62.72	66.20†	+ 1.21	2.78
UK Gilt/Fx Int Inc	48.07	50.64†	+ 0.52	7.15
UK Income Inc	61.59	65.00†	+ 1.21	3.48
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0500 550 000 Dealing: 0800 440 000				
American Tst	43.38	46.15†	+ 0.88	...
-do- Accum	43.72	46.51†	+ 0.90	
Bond	125.23	132.86	+ 2.47	5.67
Bridge Fund	91.25	97.07	+ 1.57	2.20
Cash Income	50.02	50.82	− 1.10	5.90
-do- Accum	66.46	66.46	+ 0.09	5.90
Distributor	98.80	105.11	+ 1.83	3.30
European	47.77	50.82	+ 1.20	.
Foundation	102.08	108.51	+ 1.89	2.33
General	204.36	217.40	+ 1.50	1.61
Global	339.14	360.79†	+ 2.51	0.19
Growth	133.87	142.41	+ 2.27	2.55
Higher Income Inc	30.55	32.50	+ 0.68	4.52
-do- Accum	35.71	37.99	+ 0.80	4.52
Income	252.44	268.55†	+ 3.88	3.15
Intrepid	131.27	139.74†	+ 4.50	1.98
Japan	24.76	26.34	− 0.04	..
Managed Tst Inc	52.41	56.05	+ 0.92	2.08
-do- Accum	55.87	59.75	+ 0.76	2.08
Oriental Inc	145.00	154.26	+ 0.58	0.24
-do- Accum	140.52	149.49	− 2.90	0.24
Pers Intl Gwth	32.31	34.37	+ 0.30	0.42
Royal Scottish Assurance				
Cap Hse Global Inc	81.28	86.93	+ 1.59	1.58
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
Managed	104.80	110.00	+ 0.30	2.33
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	131.70	138.63	+ 2.34	1.33
UK Equity	153.45	161.53	+ 3.89	3.04
UK Equity Income	140.66	148.06†	+ 0.64	3.51
UK Smaller Cos	126.87	132.71	+ 1.89	1.75
UK Equity Growth	144.39	151.99	+ 3.83	2.43
UK Index Trckg	155.19	163.36	+ 3.56	3.42
Intl Index Trckg	157.88	166.19	+ 2.58	1.09
International	253.28	266.61†	+ 3.33	0.44
European	223.37	235.13	+ 6.35	0.22
Pan European	148.59	156.22†	+ 2.21	1.26
Nth American	207.95	218.89†	+ 4.49	0.13
N Amer Smlr Cos	221.25	232.90	+ 1.64	.
Japanese	88.96	93.64	− 0.90	
Pacific	222.68	234.40	− 0.98	0.72
South East Asian	245.82	258.76†	− 2.55	0.67
Intl Bond	143.08	150.61	+ 2.44	4.25
Gilt & Convertible	109.15	114.89	+ 1.36	8.02
Property	79.19	83.36	+ 0.27	6.65
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	259.20	278.60	+ 6.20	0.42
-do- Accum	274.30	294.70	+ 6.50	0.42
Japan Inc	100.20	106.90†	+ 0.10	..
Nth American Inc	118.40	126.90	+ 0.30	0.31
Worldwide Inc	164.20	176.30	+ 1.00	0.39
Hong Kong Inc	147.80	151.60	− 0.50	1.60
Swiss Equities Inc	84.28	89.94	+ 1.08	0.11
Wwide Bond Inc	66.11	69.94	+ 1.13	5.04
Emgng Asia Inc	195.80	213.60	+ 0.40	0.14
-do- Accum	197.60	214.30	+ 0.30	0.14
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.11	50.11†	+ 0.05	6.41
Thailand Inc	150.80	164.30†	+ 1.70	1.39
Gold Trust Inc	70.52	77.59		0.19
New Zealand Inc	95.31	102.50†	− 0.20	1.83
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	65.59	70.57	+ 0.98	1.43
Latin Am Grop Inc	51.46	55.98	− 0.85	0.33
UK All Sh Mgn Inc	65.11	69.79	+ 1.43	2.47
Broker Unit Trusts				
Global Dividend	82.13	87.84	+ 0.40	
Global Portfolio	73.59	78.71	+ 0.78	.
Global Opps	65.88	70.46	− 0.24	.
Marsh Global Gth	64.68	68.59	+ 0.47	..
AAM Global Equity	55.48	58.89	+ 0.05	2.13
CAM Brit Gwth Inc	101.20	108.30	+ 1.20	
Temple Equity Inc	45.78	49.77	+ 0.77	2.27
Hartley Growth	94.47	100.50	+ 2.63	
Intl Growth Inc	88.79	94.96†	− 0.04	1.01
IPS Portfolio Inc	87.06	93.11	+ 0.13	
Premier Perfmc Inc	68.57	73.34	+ 0.51	1.79
Roxburgh Strat Gth	74.37	79.54	+ 0.60	0.47
Slater Gwth	113.80	119.70†	− 0.90	
Rooksbery Growth	50.53	54.39		0.58
International Scan	77.55	82.94	− 0.11	
LFC Ind-Act Grth	58.67	62.75	+ 0.57	
Coverdale Tepout	51.01	55.17	+ 0.42	
Prem Equity Inc	111.60	121.90	+ 2.30	
Lowes Intl Growth	49.28	51.87	+ 0.33	
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	260.80	277.40	+ 7.50	2.58
-do- Accum	557.60	593.10	+15.90	2.58
Growth	168.90	177.80	+ 4.70	2.87
Income	253.00	269.10†	+ 6.10	3.72
Intl Equity	265.90	282.80	+ 4.30	0.77
-do- Accum	296.10	314.90	+ 4.80	0.77
UK Income	70.48	74.95	+ 1.75	3.32
UK Intl 25	85.98	91.46	+ 2.02	2.09
New Europe	88.49	94.14	+ 1.68	0.33
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	640.52	685.05†	+10.10	0.42
-do- Accum	643.07	687.73	+11.00	0.42
Income	404.94	433.10†	+10.44	3.35
Wwide Recovery	416.88	445.87	+ 6.51	0.48
Amer Growth Inc	268.46	287.13	+ 8.43	0.01
-do- Accum	268.46	287.13	+ 8.43	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	254.75	272.47	+ 2.32	0.14
Far East Gth Inc	279.57	299.01	− 0.91	0.43

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THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Why mortgage holders feel that a deed charge is beyond the pale

From Mr K. Galpin

Sir, Ivan Mattin is not alone in his dissatisfaction with the Abbey National's £50 deeds administration fee (Weekend Money Letters, November 11).

When I protested against this fee suddenly appearing at the redemption of my mortgage, I was told I had agreed to it since it was included in the original mortgage clauses document. This turned out to be a few lines of very small print lost in the middle of some 400 lines of equally small print — to the effect that "the borrower agrees to pay to the company all costs of whatever nature incurred in the course of the protection realisation enforcement or redemption of the company's security . . ."

So that's all right then. Maybe it's legal, but it feels like a rip off. At the very least, it seems poor marketing: there are no prizes for guessing the very last place where my mortgage proceeds will be invested.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH GALPIN,
72 High Street,
Markyate,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire.

From Mr M. L. Weil

Sir, I read the letter by Ivan Mattin with considerable empathy.

Abbey National holds the mortgage and deed to my home. I recently contacted it to inquire as to the exact wording as to how our property is titled since I have no copy of the deed. The information will not be sent until it receives a cheque for £5.

Yours sincerely,
MARVIN L. WEIL,
82 Thames Street,
Oxford.

From Mr C. Wiseman

Sir, Mr Mattin should not give up. I also objected to the £50 "deeds handling charge" and took the view as a lawyer that there was nothing in the mortgage contract which entitled the Abbey National to levy this fee. After I threatened to refer the matter to the Banking Ombudsman, the Abbey National wrote saying "it has been decided that in the interests of customer service an ex-gratia payment of £50 should be made to yourself, and I now enclose a cheque for this amount".

Apart from the question of principle involved, it will be seen that the Abbey National is, presumably, still collecting £1 million to which it is not entitled for every 20,000 mortgages being repaid.

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL WISEMAN,
Lytton Lodge,
The Drive,
Snaresbrook,
E18.

Ernie should learn to communicate

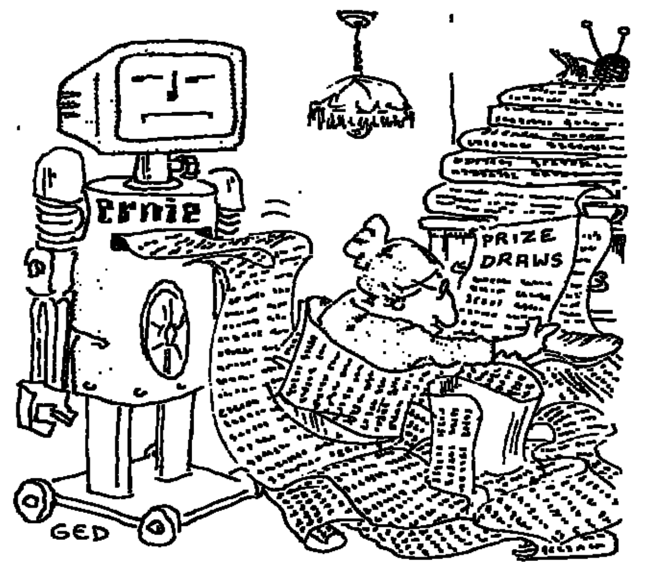
From Mr G. B. Collins

Sir, Mrs Kaye's misgivings (Weekend Money Letters, November 11) over Ernie should be shared by most holders of Premium Bonds, but not for bias or statistical reasons. Unless bondholders are prepared to visit a main post office regularly and examine the list of winning bond numbers, they have no way of knowing whether their prizes have been misdirected by the Premium Bond office or simply not delivered by the Post Office.

Before these two bodies write to say that is impossible, let me assure your readers that I know of both events having occurred to close relatives.

The solution that the Premium Bond office should adopt is to send each bondholder an annual statement showing which bonds have been entered into the last sequence of draws and what prizes were awarded to those bonds. Holders can then check that they have actually received their prizes and that their bonds are still being entered into each draw.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. COLLINS,
4 Queens Avenue,
Dorchester, Dorset.



Luck of the draw with Premium Bonds

From Mr A. Jones

Mrs R. Kaye has obviously had less than average luck with only two £50 prizes from her £1,000 worth of Premium Bonds purchased in 1984. My experience has been quite different. I purchased a block of 500 bonds in March 1982 and by September 1995 they had won a total of £500.

The odds against a single bond winning in a single month are 15,000-1 and therefore, on average, a holder of 1,000 might expect to win one prize every 15 months and a holder of 500 to win once every 30 months. However, Ernie generates numbers on a random basis. For this reason it is possible that, over the next 10-12 years, Mrs Kaye may have more than average success and I may win next to nothing. Premium Bonds are just another lottery, albeit one in which the stake money is never lost.

Yours truly,
AUBREY JONES,
34 Trinity Avenue,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Abbey National needs guidelines

From Wing Commander R. Dauncey

Sir, I was interested in Sara McConnell's article on Abbey National's assurances that it will do better for N&P members than it did for its own (November 11). While I am sure that it may have sorted out some of the administrative inefficiencies, I hope that it will also set and publish logical policy guidelines.

When Abbey National floated, I had accounts, and my cousin, for whom I hold enduring power of attorney, also held an account. Her passbook was suitably annotated. This led the company to insist that the account was in joint names and my cousin was not entitled, even claiming that it had taken legal advice. In vain did I explain what power of attorney meant, and it took some 18 months before it finally accepted the realities of the situation and issued a share certificate. In fairness, I should add that it also reimbursed her for everything spent or missed. She was not out of pocket!

The Abbey National has now relegated the power of attorney details to the special operating instructions panel — so perhaps it has learnt from its experience.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DAUNCEY,
Lermoos, 34 Main Road,
Naphill, High Wycombe.

Society line should allow young savers to benefit from takeover

From Mr M. Trenerry

Sir, I have read with interest the correspondence over the past two weeks regarding the proposed takeover of the National & Provincial Building Society, and the failure to offer payout to young savers.

If the takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society could be structured in a way that young savers could qualify, there can be no reason why the proposed National & Provincial takeover could not be similarly structured.

The society may well say that it has to draw the line somewhere. However, if you can structure it to include those who only invested a day or so before the announcement, it cannot be fair or equitable to exclude young savers of many years' standing. It is time for the society to act in the best traditions of a mutual organisation and rethink the matter and draw its line somewhere else.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TRENERRY,
Newhaven,
1 Northfield Drive,
Truro,
Cornwall.

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51	£8,895.35
52	£8,542.66
53	£8,189.97
54	£7,837.28
55	£7,484.59
56	£7,036.14
57	£6,587.69
58	£6,139.24
59	£5,690.79
60	£5,242.34
61	£4,848.79
62	£4,455.24
63	£4,061.69
64	£3,668.14
65	£3,274.59
66	£2,758.99
67	£2,243.39
68	£1,727.79
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My/Our interest is to be paid ☐ Annually ☐ Monthly by: ☐ crediting back to this account ☐ transferring it to another Birmingham Midshires a/c no.________
☐ paying it directly to my bank (please send full details of your bank account) TI 18/11
Name ________
Address ________
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*Correct as at 10/11/95. Source Moneyfacts November 1995. #CAR = Compound Annual Rate where interest is added to the account. §Full details of this competition will be sent when you open your account. Closing date for entries is 31/12/95. The competition is open to investors over 18 years of age. Birmingham Midshires Building Society, PO Box 81, Pendeford Business Park, Wobaston Road, Wolverhampton WV9 5HZ. Assets exceed £7 billion. Established since 1849. Member of the Building Societies Association and the Investors Protection Scheme. Interest is calculated from the 4th working day following receipt of your cheque. All cheques are processed within 24 hours of receipt. Interest is payable gross subject to receipt of certification as required by the Inland Revenue or net of basic rate tax at the appropriate time.

Share prices lose early lead

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2871¼	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2865½	+ 18¾	4.6	10.4
586	413	Abbey Nat	586	+ 8	4.1	11.7
363	250	Allied Irish	358	+ 1	4.0	10.4
280	198	Aus New Z	277	+ 8	5.0	8.3
4075	2531¼	Bank America	3806¼	+ 75	..	..
270½	191½	Bank Scotland†	266	+ 2	2.8	11.8
797	557½	Barclays	783	− 8	3.6	10.7
473	288	Bk of Ireland	470	− 1	3.7	9.3
525	418	Cater Allen	465	− 1	7.8	7.0
4982¾	2450	Citicorp†	4308¼	+ 87¾	..	..
340½	216¾	Close Bros	322	+ 2	3.4	14.5
£162¼	£139¾	Commerzbk	£147⅞	− 525	3.7	...
1375	893¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1171¼	+ 55¾	0.5	..
3231¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3093¾	+ 18¾	2.5	..
881¼	612½	Espirito Santo	859¾	+ 3¾	12.7	..
1611	1139¾	Fuji Bank Y	1272¾	+ 50¼	0.4	...
490	365	Gerrard Natl	451	...	6.1	14.9
253	180	Hambros	208	+ 1	4.6	...
983	589	HSBC	940	− 11	3.8	12.2
947	578	HSBC HK	921½	− 13	3.8	12.0
344	228	Irish Perm	344	+ 2	3.5	8.0
463	353	Joseph (L)	463	...	4.8	25.9
145	85	King Shaxson	114	..	9.9	8.8
638½	530	Lloyds	638	+ 5	4.0	12.8
592	479	Nat Aust Bk	541	+ 10	7.3	...
687½	454	Nat West	681	..	4.2	10.6
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500	...	6.6	3.3
67	44	Rea Brothers	45	...	2.6	18.0
569½	373½	Rgl Bk Scot	556	+ 10	3.2	13.4
1478	905¾	Schroders	1300	− 5	1.4	18.5
1180	829¼	Schroders N/V	1095	− 5	1.6	15.6
110	81	Singer & Fried	109	...	4.2	11.3
547	246	Stand Chart	546	+ 8	2.1	13.7
408	217	TSB	405	+ 2	3.6	14.1
121	79	Union	111	..	3.4	..
£145¼	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£134⅝	+ 25	2.2	..
269¾	211	Westpac	264¼	+ 1½	2.2	..
295	200	Woolwich	293	− 2	4.8	16.8

BREWERIES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
231	143	Ascot Hldgs	217	..	..	0.4
689	497	Bass	680	+ 8	4.0	16.4
449	239	Boddington	436½	− 6½	2.6	22.5
192	137	Burtonwd Brwry	184	.	3.7	17.1
186	137	Eldridge P 'A'	172	.	3.1	30.9
99	51	Fosters Brewing	99	.	3.0	..
439	335	Fuller Smith 'A'	411	..	2.5	17.8
540	402	Greenalls Grp	527	− 4	3.2	15.2
658	488	Greene King	639	+ 1	2.8	16.8
297	240	Hardy Hanson	286	..	4.1	13.8
160	150	Heavitree	155	.	4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Hall J	3128	.	2.2	16.7
347	219	Mansfield	329	.	3.0	17.3
321	266	Marston Thmp	304	.	2.7	15.2

DISTRIBUTORS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
113½	88¾	AB Lux	100	...	5.2	11.5
595	535	Adam & Harvey	545	− 3	4.6	7.0
21	14	Alexanders	14	.	6.2	23.8
113	88	Applegard	91	+ 1	8.2	9.8
4¾	3¼	Ass Br Eng	3½	.	2.1	28.5
623	516	BSS Group	573	...	4.3	18.5
45	28	Bands	33	+ 1	...	...
24½	15½	Bearing Power	18½	.	7.6	8.1
38	18	Bogod 'A'	26	...	3.4	8.3
483	345	Bremner	445	..	3.8	17.1
21	10½	Bridgend Gp	17	...	1.5	
96	78	Brit Fittings†	84	...	4.8	12.7
270	215	Caliyx	253	...	5.7	18.0
88	54	Central Mtr	66	...	5.2	17.9
60	35	Cook (DC)	55	...	3.4	8.1
320¾	220	Cowie	297	+ 5	4.0	12.8
155	125	Dag Motors†	128	...	7.0	10.6
596	500	Dawson El	508	.	1.9	11.2
501	408	Diploma	441	+ 11	4.8	14.5
333	236	Electrocomponents	325	...	2.3	21.9
247	153	Eurodir Elec	234	.	2.2	16.2
235	64	Eurodollar	66	− 30	15.0	3.9
120	87	European Mtr	95	..	6.6	8.2
449	290	Evans Halshaw	292	..	6.6	9.0
895	512	Farnell Elect†	661	− 2	1.8	19.8
72	48	Fife Indmar	66	..	6.2	10.8
24½	15	Gardiner	18	...	5.4	6.4
30	16	Glenchewton	28	...	1.3	.
108	61	Gowrings	85	..	3.3	14.1
185	148	Harris (Philip)	184	..	4.8	12.8
201	142	Headlam†	195	+ 1	2.7	17.1
554	258	Henlys	509	..	2.5	18.9
137	81	Holders Tech	138	...	5.5	25.9
163	88	ISA Intl	156	...	1.3	17.1
430	274	Inchcape†	297	+ 2	6.5	28.9
66	53	Jacks (Wm)†	60	..	1.6	11.4
187	142	Kwik-Fit	187	+ 3	3.1	16.0
358¼	264½	Lex Service	310	− 8	5.8	16.5
195	148	Lookers	148	...	6.4	8.2
22	9	Malaya Grp	11¾	..	5.1	15.9
9¼	5	Middlesex	8¾	− ¼	0.8	18.9
71	35	Midstates	38	...	.	4.3
503	330	Norbain	485	.	1.3	16.7
269	78	Northamber	254	− 7	0.8	20.4
155	135	PCT	137	.	7.0	9.8
283	225	Pendragon	272	.	3.9	14.2
166	123	Perry Gp†	158	...	6.1	11.9
146	126	Quicks Group	135	+ 1	5.3	11.5
198	160	REA	185	..	2.6	23.2
3¾	2¼	Reece	3¼	...	..	
73	48	Ronson	54	...	2.9	11.0
6½	2½	Ross Gp	3½		..	
63½	37½	SEP Ind	60	+ ½	2.5	20.0
17½	8½	Sabre	11	.	..	6.2
74½	38	TLS	73	.	3.2	12.4
268	226	Three Products	259	...	4.8	14.8
275	151	Verity (Reg)	256	+ 1	2.8	16.3
305	240	Wholesale Ftgs	304	.	4.8	19.0
80	62½	Wilshaw	65½	− ¼	1.5	15.5

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
18½	11½	Locker (T) A	16½	...	3.0	...
45	29	ML Hldgs	40	...	3.9	13.2
39	19	MS Intl	32	...	2.0	..
234	137	Mang Bronze†	222	..	2.8	11.0
476	378	McKechnie†	428	+ 3	4.8	...
95	61	Meggitt†	87½	− 1	5.6	28.5
128	91¾	Molnr	197	..	4.4	17.1
138	121	Motsuct†	122	...	3.2	25.8
825	407	Molins	804	...	2.7	14.0
405	293	Morgan Cruc†	393	+ 5	4.3	17.2
316	178	Morris Ashby	303	.	2.8	16.6
53	32	Neepsend	52	.	3.6	13.3
70	41	Neutronics	54	+ 1	3.9	11.0
41½	12	OMI Intl	14	...	6.7	..
381	233	Powerscreen	375	− 3	2.8	13.8
15½	4¼	Prospect Inds	5	...	16.5	..
73	60	Radiant Metal	65			

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
213	172	Bankers†	208	..	2.4	...
46¼	28¾	Baring Em Eu	39			
363	300	Baring Tribune	345	+ 2	2.4	...
96	84¾	Br Assets	95¼	+ ¼	6.1	
97½	83	Br Empire Sec	93½	+ ½	1.3	
37½	25	Br Empire Wts	34	+ 2	..	
233	194	Br Inv	222	+ 2	2.9	
101	69	Brazilian	69½	+		
255½	211	Brunner	245	+ 2	2.9	
136	115½	BZW Conv	118½	+ 1	8.2	
490	318	Candover	469	..	3.2	
58	34½	Central Euro Grth	40½	+ 1	1.4	...
185	144	Chiles & Eastern†	164½	...	2.7	
188	161	Cont Asset	181	+ 1	2.1	
88	75	Dawnay Inv Inc	75	..	13.3	
340	278	Derby Cap	336			
168	148	Derby Inc	154	..	14.8	

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
92	72½	Murray Emg Eco	76¾	+ ¾	...	...
40	18	Murray Em Ec Wt	19½			
65	54	Murray Euro	55½	..	0.8	...
17½	10	Murray Eu Wts	10½			
373	308	Murray Income	371	+ 2	4.0	...
378	296	Murray Intl	374	+ 2	4.2	
182½	162½	Murray S/C OP	181½	− ¼		
151	126	Murray S/C Cap	144	+ 1		
81	73	Murray S/C Inc†	73	..	17.8	...
3250	2900	Murray S/C Uni	3025	.	0.4	...
489	376	Murray Small	434	+ 2	1.3	
377	308	Murray Vent†	365	+ 4	4.1	
19	11	Newmarket	14			
67	53	Northng Inc	58	..	10.4	...
79	61	Northng Cap	70			
372	316	O'seas Inv Tst	351	− 1	1.3	
190	156	O'seas Wts	161			

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
345	315	Black (A&C)	335	...	5.2	13.0
281	174	Blenheim Gp	248	..	5.3	15.1
233	198	Border TV	229	..	2.7	20.6
368	335	Bristol	342	.	4.7	22.7
498	342	BSkyB	395½	+ 1½	0.8	44.8
150	126	CIA Gp	129	..	1.9	25.4
38	22	Caledonian Med	24½			
481	343	Capital Radio	464	+ 9	2.0	...
1082	851	Carlton Comm	974	− 6	2.8	15.1
100	83	City of Lon	92	...	6.9	11.5
149	81	Cordiant	108	+ 6		
1431¼	1181¼	Daily Mail	1303¾	..	1.6	18.0
1208¾	953¾	Daily Mail 'A'	1116¾	+ 6¾	1.9	15.4
543	285	Dorling Kindt	509	− 2	1.0	41.5
685	385	EMAP	553	− 2	2.2	25.2
886¾	584¾	Elsevier	847¾	+ 5½	2.7	20.9
1655	950	European Pb	951	− 2	5.7	13.6

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
158	112	Browne Dolphin	153	+ 1	4.9	15.9
685	525	Caledonia	682	...	3.1	20.6
2400	1900	Camellia	2300		2.3	18.4
22½	13	Carlisle	16¾		1.9	17.3
208	142	Catlles	207	..	3.7	18.3
35	18	Christie	24	..		
17	13½	EFG	15½	..	4.0	3.1
89	61	EFT Group	87	+ 1	2.6	15.7
775	690	EFM	693	..	4.3	16.2
186	128	Exco	141	+ 3	5.3	7.2
305	161	Garinvest	285		2.4	24.7
379	228	Govett†	328	− 1	8.2	3.7
1272	963	Henderson Ad	1234	+ 5	4.6	24.9
260	162½	Invesco	260	+ 3	2.4	17.9
49	43	Investment Co	44	..	6.6	
233	198	Ivory Sime	230	..	4.1	17.1
240½	164¾	Jardine Strat	170¾	+ ¼	5.5	5.5
144	85	Johnson Fry†	133	..	3.8	9.3
212	131	Lon Forfaiting	212	.	5.6	15.1
165	116	Lon Scot Bk	165		3.3	19.2
182	153	Man ED & F	169	+ 5	7.1	7.8
1353	863	M & G	1265	− 5	3.1	22.1
340	224	MAI	340	+ 2	3.2	16.9
127½	78	MAI 5.9% Cv Pf	127½	..	5.9	..
996	680	MAM†	878	+ 4	3.9	19.4
130	90	Nat Home Loan	94	+ ½	..	3.3
1775	1150	Perpetual	1667	− 1	3.1	..
818	516	Provident	805	+ 3	3.9	17.6
330	245	Rathbone Bs	313	.	3.8	16.1
41½	24¾	Rutland Tst†	41	...	4.0	17.9
355	261	S & U†	305	+ 4	5.3	9.0
133	105	SJP Capital	116	− 1	3.2	...
525¼	305¼	Swire Pacific	447¾	− 8	2.7	17.7
78	42	Tawny Lux	47	− 2	6.6	..
371	302	Transatlantic	343	+ 2	5.1	23.0
26	9	Trio Hldgs	10	.	1.2	16.4
26	19	Western Selectr	22	..	1.4	.

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
268¾	195¾	Frost Group	218	.	3.7	18.0
79	46	Gieves†	70	.	3.2	17.9
203	112	Goldsmiths Gp†	201	+ 6	2.1	18.2
640	505	GUS†	589	− 10	3.2	16.0
376	179	Hamleys†	325	.	3.0	14.5
73	25	Hampden Gpt	71	+ 2	2.6	13.7
175	125	Hse of Fraser†	150	− 1	4.6	19.3
83	57	Hughes (T J)†	59	..	5.6	13.9
168	85	Innovations	147	+ 1	1.3	74.4
514	279	JJB Sports†	497	+ 12	1.5	23.2
526	379	Kingfisher†	512	− 2	3.7	17.1
145	100	Kingsbury Grp	145	+ 5	2.0	20.4
365	208	Liberty	338	.	2.7	31.5
305	184	Lloyds Chemt	256	+ 2	5.0	9.6
165	108	MFI	165	..	3.2	21.8
451	371	Marks Spencer†	443	− ½	3.0	19.2
645	500	Menzies (John)	629	...	2.6	14.7
580	338	Moss Bros	579	.	3.0	16.9
444	252	Next	440	− 2	2.9	24.0
54	27	OEM	43	...	..	
96	34	Oliver (G)	44	...	2.8	49.8
340	243	Ottakars Intl	348	...	4.1	18.6
93	70	Partridge Fine	71	...	5.8	9.8
155	60	QS Hldgs†	60	− 5	10.8	15.7
14½	5¼	Rhino Grp▲	12½	..		
192	113	Roschers	192	+ 10	3.2	22.2
120¾	95½	Sears†	100	− 2	4.9	15.9
24	11½	Signet Group	13¼	..		
484	321	Smith WH	495	+ 2	4.8	14.3
950	638	Sothebys	898	...	1.7	72.6
326	209	Stanhouse	316	− 4	2.5	21.2
140	112	Style	121	..	4.8	10.4
303	143	T & S Stores†	184	...	4.6	11.7
164	98	Tie Rack	162		2.1	16.9
4½	1	Upton & South	2¾			
598	424	Vendome	562	+ 6	2.1	..
35	14	WEW Group†	19	.	4.6	..
67	35	Wid of Leather	53	..	3.5	84.1
191	155	Wyevale	182	+ 1	3.5	16.2

PHARMACEUTICALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
885	425	Brit Biotech	960	.	..	..
345	100	Cantab Pharms	330			
494	233½	Celltech	491	− 2	..	
325	92½	Chiroscience	288	+ 3	..	
188	31	Cortecs	147	...		
268	103	Fisons	264	..	1.2	
900	587	Glaxo Wellcome	885½	− 2½	4.2	20.3
294	162	Medeva	273	− 1	1.6	17.6
719	273	Scotia	649	− 4		
692½	444	SmithKline	691	+ 5	2.5	20.4
680½	416	Smithkline Uts	680	+ 10	2.5	20.1
1313	840	Zeneca	1296	− 17	2.7	26.4

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
565	476½	Allied Domecq	500	+ 5	6.0	19.7
499½	390	Bulmer (HP)	497	..	3.0	16.8
139	99	Burn Stewart†	139	..	4.5	28.9
461½	352	Grand Met	440	− 2	4.1	30.2
536	404	Guinness	470	− 6	3.8	14.6
445	337	Highland Dist	342	− 6	2.9	15.2
217	175	Macallan-Glen	205	...	0.8	45.5
710	600	Macdo Mtn 'A'	640	..	2.1	23.4
681	532	Matthew Clark	678	− 1	3.9	...
140	61	Merydew W	129	..	1.0	

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
145	118	Inv Capt	145	+ 1	4.6	
109	78	Intl Biotech†	101	+ 1	1.2	.
39	20	Int Wts	36	+ 2	..	
99	74	INVESCO Asia	89½	− ½		
72	51	INVESCO Blue	63	− 1	16.7	
133	88	INVESCO Eng Int	133	+ 1	0.8	
149	122	INVESCO Korea	139	+ 1		
61	49	INVESCO Tokyo	52½	− ½	...	
99	82	J Fry 2nd U	95	..	9.0	
94	81	J Fry Euro U	83	.	6.7	
274	174	JF Fledg Jap	214	+ 1	...	...
126	99	Jupiter Intl Gth	125		3.4	

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
235	197	Bar & Wall	204	.	6.7	10.8
394	202	Blackpl Toyst	380	+ 1	2.9	11.7
475	333	Boosey Hawks	475		1.6	26.0
3¾	1½	Brent Walker	1½			
46	33	Burndene	39	− 1	6.2	13.3
26½	5¼	Cassel Plc	6	..	8.2	
348	248	Chrysalis	346	..		
97	70½	City Centre Rest	92	...	2.7	17.8
449	305	Compass Gp	448	+ 3	2.0	23.3
398	210	Eurocamp	233	− 1	5.7	10.9
250	118	Euro Disney	181	+ 12	...	
181	93	Euro Leisure	170	...	...	5.1

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1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
249	194	Klnwt Chrt	244	+ 2	2.8	.
121	98½	Klnwt E Mkt	105½	+ ½		
129½	110	Klnwt End	129½	+ ½		
84½	73	Klnwt Euro Prvt	82½	+ ½	3.5	
27½	21	Klnwt Euro Wts	27½			
91	74	Klnwt H Inc	82	− 1	13.5	
266	213	Klnwt O'seas	264	+ 2	1.7	.
140	111	Klnwt Smlr	136	.	2.2	
605¼	427¼	Korea—Euro	571¼	+ 1¼	0.1	
125½	71	Latin American	88	+ 1		
954	718	Law Debenture	954	+ 11	2.8	
102	77	Lloyds Sm Cap	101	+ 2		
27½	26	Lloyds Sm Dw	27	− ½	17.1	

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
118½	58	First Choice▼	61	+ 1	7.1	11.9
351	262	First Leisure	342	− 1	2.6	20.3
276	224½	Forte†	262	− 2	3.6	29.8
175	133	Friendly Hotels†	158	+ 6	4.5	18.5
687	476	Granada	680	+ 5	1.9	18.4
207	168	Groupe Chez Geri	197		1.5	23.4
38	16	Hi-Tec Sports	30		5.3	
168	95	Hornby	160		3.9	13.8
223½	134	Jarvis Hotel	208½	+ ½	3.7	13.3
26½	14¾	Kunick	24¾		3.8	27.0
443	264	London Clubs	418	.	4.0	14.1
187½	122	Ladbroke†	127		5.9	30.6
64	29	Magnolia	29		0.4	

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
66½	60	M&G Inc Geared	64½		9.8	
33	20½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	31	+ ½		
37½	31½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inc	34½		18.3	
130	116	M&G Inc Package	129½		4.9	
66	54¾	M&G Inc Zero Div	64½	− 1		
38½	23	M&G Rec Cap	24			
61½	48	M&G Rec Geared	50		9.9	
30	24½	M&G Rec Inc	26½		19.6	
133	127	M&G Rec Package	139		3.6	
91½	79	M&G Rec Zero Div	91			
122	100	M Currie Euro	114	+ 1	0.4	
152	119	M Currie Pac	135	+ ½	0.1	
217	152	Majedie	217	+ 3	3.4	
57	42	Marston	44			
287	241	Merchants†	276	+ 1	6.2	
95	78½	Mercury Euro Pv	88	− ½	2.0	
32	23¼	Mercury Em Wt	25½	+ ½		
93	78	Mercury World	87	− ½	0.9	
31	14	Mercury Wld Wts	15			
577	482	Mntk Inv Tst	567	+ 1	1.7	
164	125	Morg Gren Inc	161½	+ 1	3.9	
63	40½	Morg Wts	62	+ 1		
86	48	Morg Lats Amer	54½			
49	20	Morg Wts	21½			
130	104	Murray Ent	123	+ 1	7.4	
34	22	Murray Ent Wts	23			

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
464	358	Rank Org	386	− 4	4.5	13.1
37	35	Ryan Hotels†	30½		5.3	10.7
950	845	Savoy Hotel 'A'	883		1.0	46.6
89½	74½	Stakis	81	+ 1	2.5	18.0
358	314	Stanley Leisure	343	+ 1	2.2	16.1
346	280	Tarsing	346		1.0	23.2
1569½	997	Thorn EMI	1530	+ 11	3.0	25.9
219	117	Tottenham Hot	195		1.9	6.4
93	63	Toy Options	87	− 1	3.7	12.9
241	161	VCI†	238		2.3	16.3
156	115	Vardon†	115		1.7	17.2
650	216	Wembley	300	+ 2		
135	96	Zetters Gp	124	.	10.1	9.7

MEDIA

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
485	375	Abbott Mead	485		2.0	28.7
310	200	Adscene	265		3.8	14.7
40	22	Aegis Gp	38½	− ½		15.5
7¼	1¾	Allied Radio	4			
13	9	BBB Design	10			
298	155	Barbour Index	298	+ 1	3.8	36.8
10½	4½	Bateside	7½			

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
58	38	Oil Search	50			
41½	27¾	Pelican	28½	− ¼		
29½	22½	Premier	25½			15.3
43	11	Presidio	11			
96	43	Pittencrieff Re	43		1.5	
388	221	Ranco Egy	379	+ 3	0.3	52.4
453	330	Ranger	360		5.7	
8190¾	6865¾	Royal Dtch Pt	8190½	+ 93¾	4.5	14.9
4490¾	3218¾	Schlumberger	4212½	+ 131¼	2.3	
49	29	Scott Pickford	30	.	3.8	6.1
116	84	Seafield	88			46.1
787½	687	Shell	787½	+ 18½	4.6	17.5
4316¾	3234¾	Total	4316¾	+ 18¾	3.7	15.0
14½	8½	Villers Grp	12½			
325	221	Woodside	312	+ 1	1.2	
58	30	XCL	30			

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
101	75	BWD	88	.	5.9	14.5
163	126	Rabic Plc	143		2.8	7.8
78	41	Berry Bch Nbl	41	− 2	7.9	11.6
230	148	Bristol Inv	230	+ 3		

BRITISH FUNDS

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
106	101	Treas 14% 1996	101	−	13.84	6.59
109	103	Treas 15¼% 1996	103	−	14.67	6.36
107	102	Exch 13¼% 1996	103		12.83	6.37
104	102	Conv 10% 1996	103		9.66	6.30
100	97	Treas 7% 1997	100		6.94	6.43
109	107	Treas 13¼% 1997	107	−	12.31	6.34
105	104	Exch 10½% 1997	104		10.07	6.38
103	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	103	−	8.43	6.48
117	114	Exch 15% 1997	115	−	13.03	6.56
107	102	Exch 9¾% 1998	106	−	9.18	6.63
101	96	Treas 7¼% 1998	101	−	7.16	6.69
99	94	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	99		6.75	6.77
117	114	Treas 14% 1998-01	116	−	12.04	6.81
124	120	Treas 15½% 1998	122	−	12.70	6.85
114	109	Exch 12% 1998	113	−	10.56	6.89
107	100	Treas 9½% 1999	107	−	8.86	6.90
116	111	Exch 12¼% 1999	115	−	10.60	6.98
110	105	Treas 10½% 1999	110	−	9.47	6.98
96	89	Treas 6% 1999	96		6.20	7.01
110	105	Conv 10¼% 1999	110	−	9.24	7.10
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
107	100	Conv 9% 2000	106	−	8.42	7.11
103	96	Treas 8% 2000	103	−	7.72	7.14
123	117	Treas 13% 2000	122	−	10.60	7.19
111	104	Treas 10% 2001	111	−	8.96	7.30
98	90	Treas 7% 2001	98	−	7.11	7.33
111	103	Treas 9¾% 2002	111	−	8.72	7.50
102	94	Treas 8% 2003	102	−	7.80	7.56
114	105	Treas 10% 2003	113	−	8.77	7.60
118	110	Treas 11½% 2001-04	117	−	9.77	7.42
81	70	Fund 3½% 1999-04	81		4.32	6.42
111	103	Conv 9½% 2004	111	−	8.53	7.72
93	86	Treas 6¾% 2004	93	−	7.21	7.73
105	97	Treas 8½% 2005	105	−	8.07	7.73
111	103	Conv 9½% 2005	111	−	8.53	7.77
128	119	Treas 12½% 2003-05	128	−	9.76	7.73
98	94	Treas 7½% 2006	98	−	7.64	7.74
99	92	Treas 7¾% 2006	99	−	7.79	7.81
102	93	Treas 8% 2002-06	101	−	7.86	7.78
123	113	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122	−	9.61	7.65
105	97	Treas 8½% 2007	104		8.10	7.84
135	126	Treas 13½% 2004-08	135	−	10.00	7.73
110	101	Treas 9% 2008	109	−	8.25	7.86
102	94	Treas 8% 2009	100	−	7.94	7.89
LONGS (over 15 years)						
86	79	Treas 6¼% 2010	85	−	7.33	7.94
111	101	Conv 9% 2011	109	−	8.23	7.94
111	102	Treas 9% 2012	109	−	8.20	7.94
80	72	Treas 5½% 2008-12	80	−	6.88	7.63
102	93	Treas 8% 2013	100		7.95	7.93
99	91	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	97	−	7.91	7.94
102	93	Treas 8% 2015	100	−	7.93	7.91
110	100	Treas 8¾% 2017	108	−	8.09	7.96
139	127	Exch 12% 2013-17	137	−	8.71	8.01
UNDATED						
45	40	War Ln 3½%	43	−	7.99	
31	29	Treas 2½%	31		8.05	
49	45	Consols 4%	48	−	8.19	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
214	201	Treas IL 2% 1996	214	+		2.14
112	106	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	112		1.51	2.72
177	165	Treas IL 2½% 2001	177	−	2.87	3.38
173	161	Treas IL 2½% 2003	173	−	3.05	3.45
115	108	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	114		3.08	3.45
187	168	Treas IL 2% 2006	182	−	3.19	3.48
165	152	Treas IL 2½% 2009	165	−	3.26	3.50
171	157	Treas IL 2½% 2011	170	−	3.31	3.53
141	129	Treas IL 2½% 2013	140	−	3.35	3.54
150	137	Treas IL 2½% 2016	150	−	3.40	3.58
144	131	Treas IL 2½% 2020	144	−	3.45	3.61
120	109	Treas IL 2½% 2024	120	−	3.45	3.59
119	108	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	118	−	3.45	3.60

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
300	592¾	Welsh	700	+ 1	7.3	8.4
105½	100¼	Welsh Cm Pf	105¼	+ ¼		
361	256¼	Wessex	343	+ 3	4.8	8.6
677½	472	Yorkshire	604	− 1	5.7	9.5

Source: Ferrex

≈ USM # Price at suspension ‡ Ex dividend ‡ Ex scrip ▲ Ex rights issue ▼ Ex all § Ex capital distribution * Figures or report awaited .. No significant data Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index

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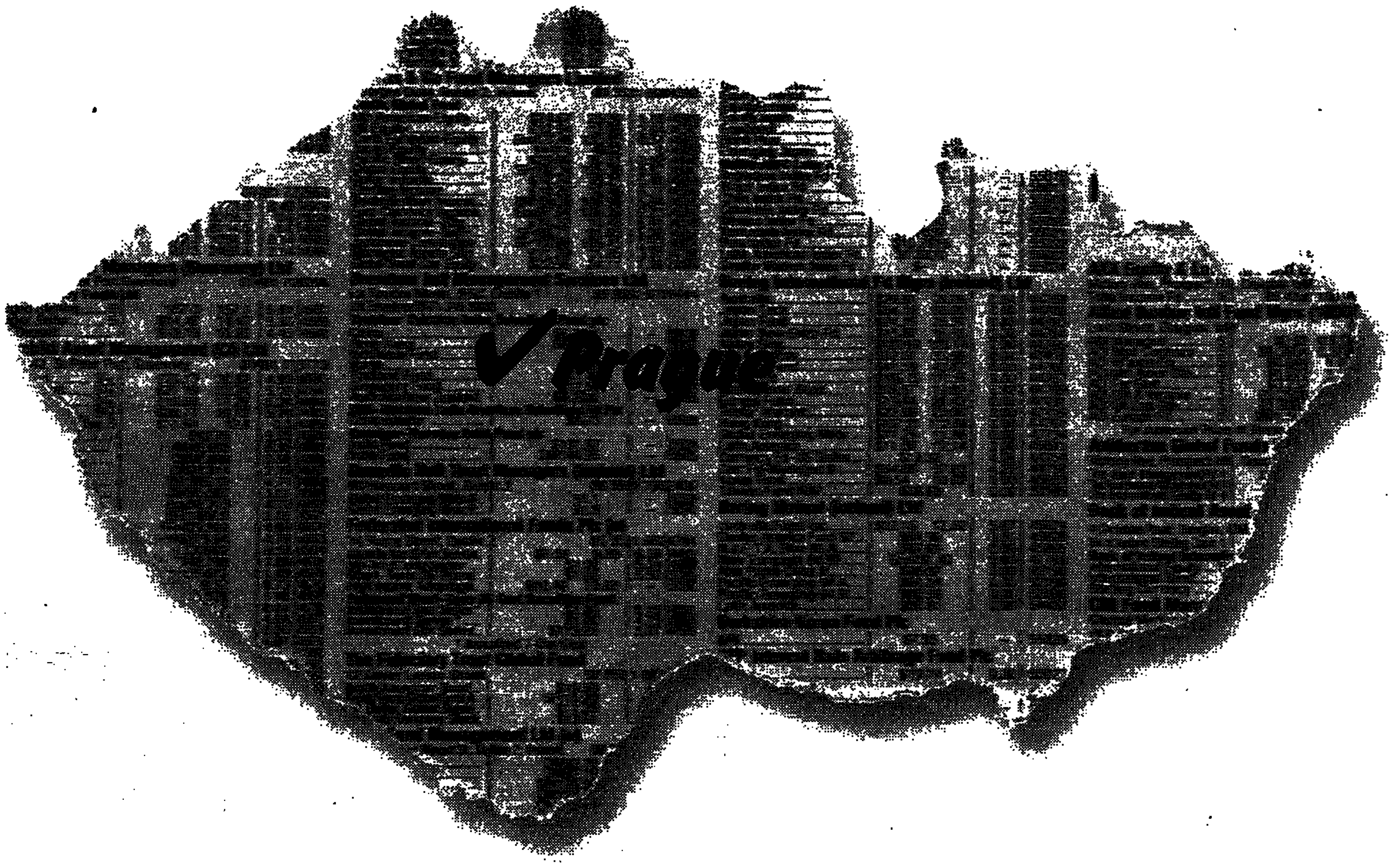

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Sainz blocks McRae's title route

By Oliver Holt

A MAN who has already won two world rallying championships and who clinched both of them in England stands between Colin McRae and Britain's first world title in the sport. Carlos Sainz will be motivated as never before when he starts the Network Q RAC Rally level on points with McRae in Chester tomorrow morning, stinging still from humiliation heaped upon him by the Scot last month.

McRae versus Sainz through four days, 28 special stages and nearly 1,500 miles of tracks plunging through rugged terrain will, barring accidents or mechanical failures, be a nail-biter, a duel between two drivers at the top, drivers who were neck-and-neck in the same event until the final day last year.

But McRae versus Sainz is team-mate versus team-mate, Subaru Impreza set against Subaru Impreza. They are both on 70 points, they are both in what is supposed to be the best car and there is no one else with a chance. That situation may not be surprising going into the last rally of the year. What is worrying supporters and officials alike, however, is that from now on, any challenge for the title might be equally limited.

Course map .... **Car 95**

The concern stems from the fact that the event that gives McRae his shot at the title will also be the first rally held since the banning of the Toyota team for use of an illegal device fitted to their cars' turbocharger systems. The ban has robbed the event of the team's drivers, including the Finn, Juha Kankkunen, who would have been racing for his fifth title.

The team has also been suspended from the championship next year, leaving the number of constructors competing at just three and casting doubt on the viability of the sport. Kankkunen and Sainz, who decided to leave Subaru for Toyota just before the ban was announced, may be left high and dry as a select few fight the battles next year.

Some rally supporters have even grown distraught enough to make the bizarre suggestion that the ban on Toyota is part of a conspiracy to destroy their sport, ignoring the fact that the team was caught red-handed using a device that significantly improved its performance.

The absence of Kankkunen and his team-mate, Didier Auriol, though, is unlikely to stop the number of spectators watching the event swelling beyond two million. McRae has promised to attack from the start, while Sainz, who only won the Rally of Catalonia last month because McRae reluctantly yielded to team orders, should be pushing for the lead on the second day when the event negotiates the treacherous stages through the Kielder Forest, including the mammoth 37-mile stage at Pundershaw.

"It may not be possible to build up a rally-winning lead there," McRae said, "because it is not a really difficult, twisty, rough stage where you might be able to gain 30 seconds. But I still think you could pull out 15 seconds."

Last year, Sainz, who will win the title if neither he nor McRae finishes the rally, led going into the final day before he ended up in a ditch amid allegations that British supporters had placed a log on the road in front of him. McRae inherited the lead when his rival retired but even though he suffered at the hands of Spanish supporters in Catalonia, he is keen to avoid similar behaviour in Britain.

"There is no way I'd be happy claiming the title if I thought I'd won it by sabotage," McRae said.

DAVID GRAY

Blewett walks off disconsolately after being bowled by Mushtaq, left. The leg spinner returned a career-best five for 115

Pakistan A play into Salisbury's hands

From Pat Gibson
in Multan, Pakistan

IT IS said that Multan has attracted more mystics, holy men and saints than anywhere else on the sub-continent. It is not recorded whether any of them foresaw the day when an English leg spinner would bowl a Pakistan side out in the land of Intikhab Alam, Abdul Qadir and Mushtaq Ahmed.

Lo and behold, it has come to pass. Before the gaze of a few hundred incredulous observers yesterday, Ian Salisbury took six for 39 as Pakistan A were dismissed for 137 in the first of the three international cricket matches against England A.

It would be good to report that here, at last, was England's answer to Shane Warne and Anil Kumble, but Salisbury, on his own admission, did not bowl brilliantly. He did not have to against a naive Pakistan team that simply could not cope with the kind of pressure that their own sides have been so good at putting on English visitors.

England A had a plan and that it worked to perfection was largely due to the efforts of their opening bowlers, Giddins, who might not have played had Ostler not gone down overnight with food poisoning, and Headley.

Ostler's absence resolved the selection dilemma, and enabled England A to include their two fastest bowlers, who they needed after losing the toss on a painfully slow, low pitch. Not only that, but Headley and Giddins also bowled non-stop for 20 overs, setting the standard for the day. "The wicket is very dead and there isn't much in it for anybody," Salisbury said. "We just wanted to be really professional as a team, give them nothing, try and build up the pressure, and make them go for their shots. It's a five-day game, but they played it a bit like a one-day game."

That was down to the stranglehold exerted by Giddins, who made the initial breakthrough with two wickets in successive balls, and Headley. They restricted Pakistan to 22 for two in 75 minutes before Salisbury took the crucial wicket of Asif Mujtaba, the captain and the most senior of four Test players in the side.

Mujtaba had looked ominously solid until he fetched a googly from outside off stump and was brilliantly caught by McGrath, one-handed, diving to his right at mid-wicket. The rest was a pitiful procession, with only Shadid Anwar, dropped twice at first slip by Salisbury, of all people, holding England up by batting four hours for 50.

MULTAN SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN A: First Innings

Mohammad Ramzan lbw b Giddins	4
Shadid Anwar c White b Salisbury	50
Shadab Kabir c McGrath b Giddins	0
*Asif Mujtaba c McGrath b Salisbury	29
Saeed Azad c McGrath b Salisbury	16
Naveed Rana run out	11
Akram Raza b Headley	5
†Wasim Yousif c Irani b Salisbury	7
Nadeem Khan c and b Salisbury	0
Kabir Khan c Knight b Salisbury	5
Mohammad Zahid not out	1
Extras (b 4, lb 2, nb 3)	9
Total	137

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-16, 3-63, 4-84, 5-104, 6-117, 7-120, 8-120, 9-126.

BOWLING: Headley 22-9-29-1, Giddins 16-4-43-2; White 4-3-14-0; Irani 3-2-2-0; Salisbury 17 3-6-39-6, Stemp 2-0-4-0.

ENGLAND A: First Innings

N V Knight not out	10
J E R Gallian not out	5
Total (no wkt)	15

*N Hussain, A McGrath, R C Irani, C White, †K J Piper, I D K Salisbury, D W Headley, R D Stemp and E S H Giddins to bat.

BOWLING: Kabir Khan 1-0-10-0; Mohammad Zahid 1-0-5-0

Umpires: Shakeel Khan and Mian Mohammad Asman.

Mushtaq's best gives Pakistan spirits timely lift

From Michael Henderson in Hobart

HOW the wheel becomes it. At the start of the first day's play of this second Test, Pakistan were close to despair. Wasim Akram lost the toss for the second week running and that was almost a hanging offence on this benign pitch. Australia have the best batting side in the world and, on a ground where Tasmania and Queensland shared 1,385 runs for 11 wickets two weeks ago, there seemed no way out.

By the end of it, Pakistan were still in the match, having taken ten of the 12 wickets to fall, and conceded 267 of the 300 runs. Much depends now on the way Sohail and his cohorts go about things when they resume on 33 for two. However, there was a determination about their cricket yesterday that suggests Australia will be stretched, and not before time.

Glenn McGrath altered the picture late in the day, with wickets in successive balls. Elahi edged on to his stumps and Mushtaq, the nightwatchman, was leg-before to a ball of full length.

What a bizarre morning it had been. Pakistan left out Mushtaq Saqlain, the 18-year-old off spinner, who had bowled so well at Brisbane, and brought back the leg spinner, Mushtaq Ahmed. Salim Malik failed to report fit, so Ijaz Ahmed stepped in.

It was Mushtaq's day. Never before had he taken five wickets in a Test innings and, although he went for four runs an over, his successes included the Waugh brothers. For a man who has not played Test cricket since the series against Australia last year, it was a noble effort to bowl almost uninterrupted for four hours. When was the last time a rubber had two leg spinners pitched against one another, each capable of taking five wickets in an innings?

Mark Waugh alone, in his fiftieth Test, passed 50, and he struggled. Disturbed by a recurring back injury, Waugh deserves sympathy and praise for his brave 88. He was eighth out, caught superbly on the boundary by Ramiz Raja, who had dropped an earlier chance from Ian Healy in the most comical manner. On the whole, the Pakistan ground fielding was good.

Until Shane Warne got to work, smiting three sixes over square leg, Mushtaq had the measure of the batsmen. Steve Waugh, cutting, was caught behind. Blewett, playing back, was confounded by a ball that spun into him, hardly an irregular part of Mushtaq's repertoire. Healy holed out to mid-wicket after making 37 entertaining runs and Reiffel flat-batted a drive to mid-off.

Earlier, David Boon had gone in a way that can only discredit Dickie Bird, who gave him run out as he tried to recover his ground after setting off for a quick single. Bird referred the matter to Steve Randell, the third umpire.

With the television link having just broken down, Randell lacked the technology to pass sentence and, when the neutral white light threw things back to Bird, he gave Boon out. The batsman was entitled to ask why he had not been given the benefit of the doubt.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

*M A Taylor b Wasim	40
M J Slater lbw b Wasim	0
D C Boon run out	34
M E Waugh c Ramiz b Mushtaq	88
S R Waugh c Moin b Mushtaq	7
G S Blewett b Mushtaq	0
†I A Healy c Basit b Mushtaq	37
P R Reiffel c Mohammad b Mushtaq	14
S K Warne not out	27
C J McDermott b Waqar	0
G D McGrath b Wasim	3
Extras (b 3, lb 9, nb 5)	17
Total	267

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-88, 3-111, 4-156, 5-156, 6-211, 7-235, 8-238, 9-244.

BOWLING: Wasim 18.3-7-42-3; Waqar 17-3-54-1, Mohammad 10-1-41-0, Mushtaq 30-6-115-5; Aamir 3-1-3-0.

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Salim Elahi b McGrath	13
Aamir Sohail not out	15
Mushtaq Ahmed lbw b McGrath	0
Ramiz Raja not out	4
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (2 wkts)	33

Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Basit Ali, †Moin Khan, *Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Mohammad Akram to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-24.

BOWLING: McDermott 5-0-19-0, McGrath 4-0-13-2

Umpires: H D Bird (England) and D B Hair (Australia)

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read by Geoffrey Palmer
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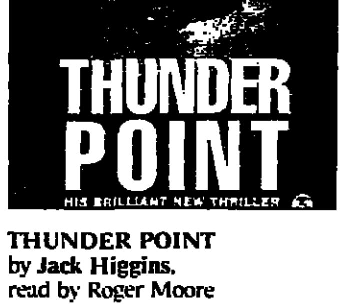

THUNDER POINT
by Jack Higgins.
read by Roger Moore
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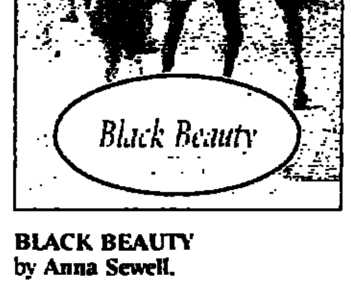
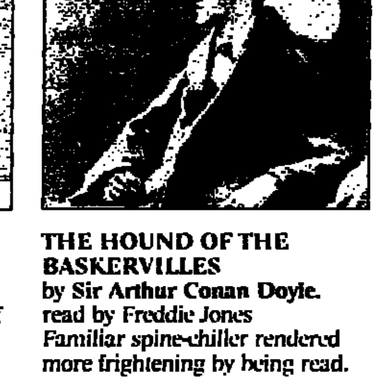
A SHORT WALK FROM HARRODS
by Dirk Bogarde, read by author
Another compelling volume of autobiography told in the author's laconic drawl. He recalls years spent in Provence and although there are painful memories, there are also moments of great joy and contentment as irksome guests depart and a new future opens up.



BLACK BEAUTY
by Anna Sewell.
read by Martin Jarvis
Classic tear-jerker for children of all ages. As a foal, Black Beauty enjoys freedom and affection so grows up respectful and courageous. But, passed from one owner to the next, he learns the misery of cruel masters. He falls in love, suffers heartbreak, yet never loses his nobility.



THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES
by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
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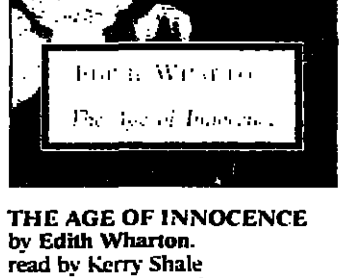
WUTHERING HEIGHTS
by Emily Bronte.
read by Juliet Stevenson
An enduringly romantic story of conflict and passion. Wilful Catherine Earnshaw and her kindred spirit, Heathcliff, have captured generations with the emotional intensity of their relationship. Separated in life, nothing can separate their souls. Not even death.



THE AGE OF INNOCENCE
by Edith Wharton.
read by Kerry Shale
A struggle between love and duty. Countess Ellen Olenska is intelligent, independent and attractive to Newland Archer but she is separated from her husband and in old New York society their sexually charged, though unconsummated, relationship was forbidden.

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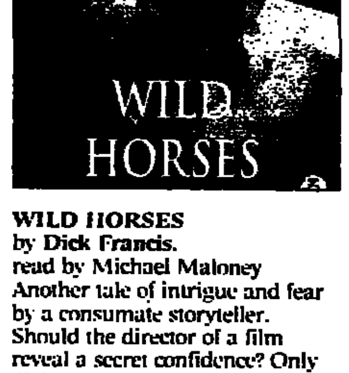

WILD HORSES
by Dick Francis.
read by Michael Maloney
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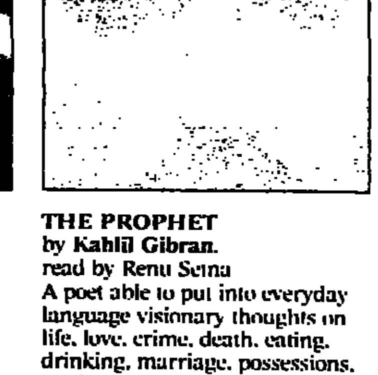

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Charlton to invoke five-day rule for play-off

By Russell Kempson

IRELAND will forsake the comforts of home before they take on Holland in the European football championship qualifying play-off at Anfield on December 13. Jack Charlton, the Ireland manager, has opted to base his squad in Macclesfield rather than Dublin for the two days leading up to the match, the winners of which will fill the last place in the finals in England next summer.

"Apart from the cost factor, it means that we will be able to get the players together on Friday and work with them away from the public gaze," Charlton said. "I'd prefer to stay away from Liverpool until the day of the game. That way, we'll be able to get on with the job without the added pressure of public attention."

Charlton will again invoke the rule that prohibits his players from playing for their clubs in the five days before an international match. He made use of it for the first time in the lead-up to the group six qualifier against Portugal in Lisbon on Wednesday, which Ireland lost 3-0 and were thus forced into the play-off against Holland.

Oxford United, of the Endsleigh Insurance League, appear to have finally ended their 40-year search for a new ground. Yesterday, the second division club received planning permission to build a £15 million stadium at Minchery Farm, on the southern outskirts of the city.

The go-ahead for the 15,000 all-seat stadium, which will have the flexibility to extend to a capacity of 23,000, was given by the planning committee of Oxford City Council. Work is scheduled to begin in the new year, in time for Oxford United to move in for the start of the 1997-98 season.

Sebastian Passarella, the elder son of Daniel Passarella, the Argentina coach, was killed yesterday when his car was in collision with a train at a level crossing in a suburb of Buenos Aires. Passarella, 18, died instantly. Reports claimed that he had tried to cross the track, even though the gates were closed.

Brolin's arrival impedes emergence of youngsters at Elland Road

Leeds deal blow to home-grown talent

Rob Hughes

Weekend View

Welcome, Tomas Brolin. English football's talent pool is not so swollen that a player, whose scampering skills and eye for goal put our national team out of the 1992 European championship, can be passed up. Brolin, indeed, emphasised his flair during the last World Cup to such an extent that he would have commanded a place in the Brazil team that won the tournament.

When Brolin is bubbling, he galvanises the team around him; he did so as a baby-faced international at the tender age of 20. He may not be principally a striker, yet he has scored 21 goals in 39 internationals for Sweden.

Yet there is something unnerving about the £4.5 million Leeds United agreed to pay Parma for him yesterday. First, there is his admission that he needs a month at least to reach his peak after breaking a foot a year and a day before he signed for Leeds. In that time, he managed just three Serie A matches, and it is not surprising that the Italians were happy to sell him for four times what they paid, and to hold on to the wayward Faustino Asprilla, of Colombia, whom Leeds originally courted. We keep Asprilla, the Italians seemed to say, you take Brolin.

A second, much deeper concern, though, is the implication of yet another import into domestic football. Brolin will partner Tony Yeboah in a £7.9 million multi-national Leeds attack that has no English blood. Given the slide down the international tables, it would be foolish to decry the introduction of any number of genuinely skilled imports. It is just that Leeds, where the manager, Howard Wilkinson, is among the most settled and most progressive coaches in the game, had always given the impression that they prided themselves on rearing talents, not simply buying the finished products.

Consider, then, the alchemist's conundrum now facing Wilkinson. He must choose two forwards from eight, he must either sell or leave in reserve Rod Wallace, David White (who yesterday began a month's loan at Sheffield United,) and Brian Deane, whose £2.9 million potential has remained latent, and has sometimes been shunted out to the Leeds wing.

There is more. What now happens to Phil Masinga, the Sowetan, who was the romantic Leeds import last year? What happens to Noel Whelan, 21 next month, who came into the Leeds attack to score seven goals in 14 games. He sustained a hairline fracture of the foot and has since struggled to live up to the praise Wilkinson heaped on him in the summer of 1993.

> 'They are struggling to maintain the promise of youth'

Then, Whelan was one of the Wilkinson youth brigade. They included Kevin Sharp and Jamie Forrester, two boys who had been sent to Auxerre to learn the French art, and who had been brought home to finishing school under Wilkinson, a former schoolmaster.

They, like Whelan, are struggling to maintain the impetus, the promise of their youth. But, the purchase of Brolin has particular relevance for Whelan, for it was about him that Wilkinson said: "He's the best athlete I've ever come across in football. He's still an adolescent, though. He'll be the subject of all the ups and downs adolescents go through. It's up to his parents and me to look after him."

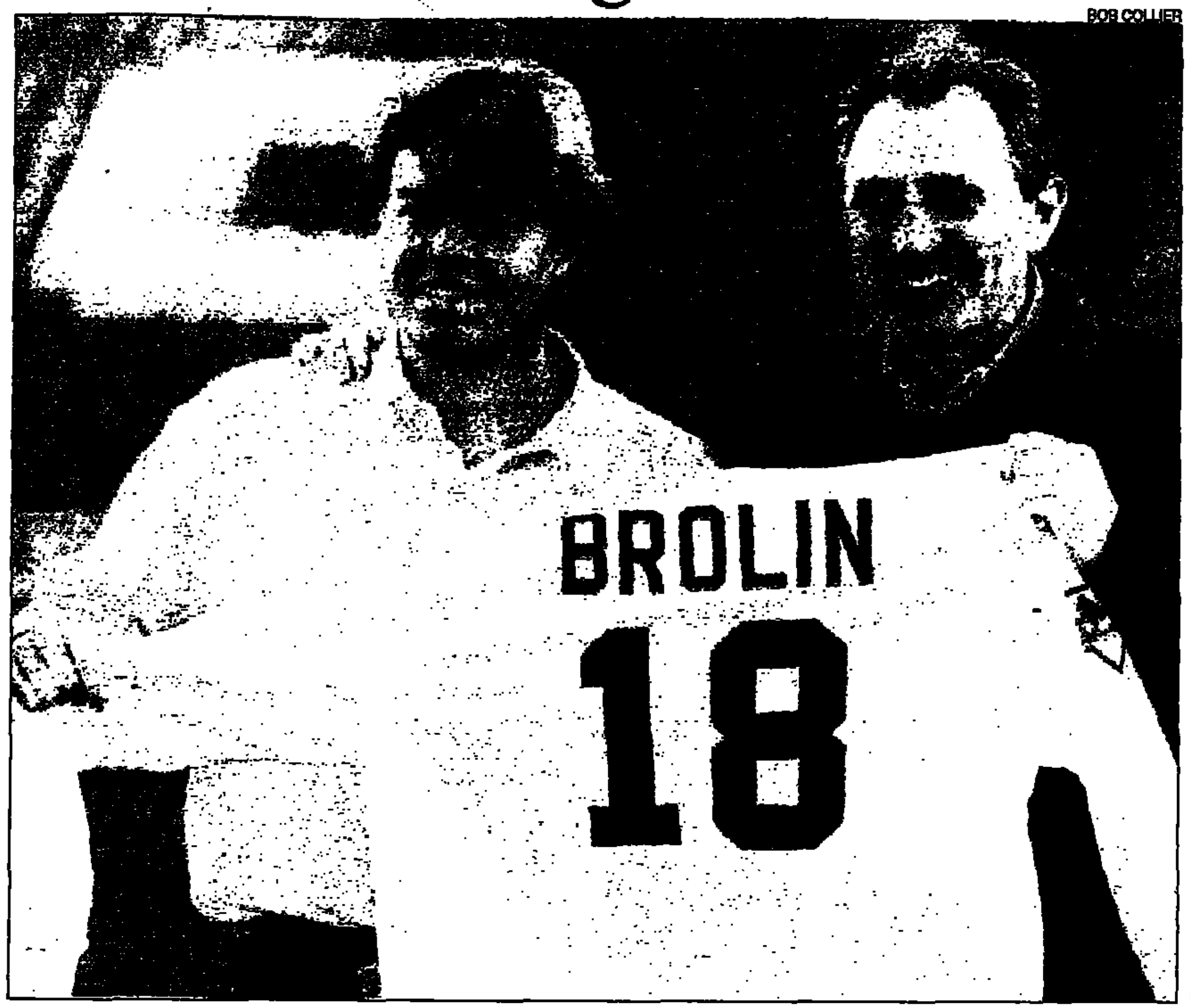
The crux of the matter is that, when Don Revie was a rearer of talents at Elland Road, there seemed to be more time and more patience in building for the game's future. Now, even Wilkinson, who declined the Football Association's high-prestige job as technical director just a month ago, is prey to the demands for immediate success. He can groom youngsters, he can buy imperfect English talents and try to improve them, but always he must have success. There is no time to wait.

Two summers ago, the young players of Leeds formed a considerable part of the blend of England's under-18 team that conquered Europe. The forwards had such promise: there was Julian Joachim, from Leicester, Kevin Gallen, from Queens Park Rangers, Forrester, of Leeds, and Robbie Fowler, of Liverpool. Fowler is still firing on all cylinders while the rest go through the growing pains, the vagaries of youth.

There is, at Lancaster Gate, a man who watches them all and understands. "There is a problem of impatience in our culture at all levels," Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, observed yesterday. "I should be very happy this week — I've seen England win at senior, under-21 and under-18 level. And I saw Paul Branch, of Everton, a lovely little forward, playing for the under-18s against Latvia. I can see him in my mind's eye, together with Fowler, in the full side a few years from now."

Can he really? Can anyone presume that this island of ours will find the formula to allow for the maturing of home-grown talent, will eventually not need to spend upwards of £100 million, importing flair? None of this is a slight on Brolin. If he gives the Yorkshire folk a semblance of the joy he has given in Sweden and Italy, he will swiftly repay his fee.

BOB COLLIER



Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, introduces Brolin, his £4.5 million signing from Parma, at Elland Road yesterday

Dalglish linked with Wolverhampton job

KENNY DALGLISH is the surpise name to emerge as a possible successor to Graham Taylor as manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division club.

The Blackburn Rovers director of football, who as manager led them to the FA Carling Premiership title last season, was yesterday reported to be interested in taking on the challenge of Molineux.

According to reports, no direct approach has been made by Dalglish to Jonathan Hayward, the club chairman, in response to his advertisement placed in newspapers after Taylor's resignation last Monday.

However, a close friend of the former Liverpool and Scotland striker, who also led the Anfield club to leading honours as manager, has made it known that Dalglish would like to be considered.

Hayward was taken by surprise at the news that Dalglish fancied the challenge and declined to comment on what he publicly regarded as "speculation". Dalglish and Blackburn Rovers took a similar stance, dismissing the report, though matters are unlikely to end there.

"I don't comment on speculation," Dalglish said.

IN BRIEF

Scorching Senior puts field in shade

PETER SENIOR, of Australia, returned a course record-equalling round of 64, seven under par, to lead the Dunlop Phoenix golf tournament at Miyazaki, Japan, with a total of 133, nine under par, two shots ahead of Robert Gamez, the young American, and three ahead of an octet including Barry Lane, of Great Britain.

Laura Davies, of Great Britain, again struggled to keep pace as Annika Sorenstam, of Sweden, opened up a three-stroke lead in the second round of the Australian Masters at the Royal Pines on the Gold Coast yesterday. Davies, trying to win the event for the third successive year, followed her first round of 72 with a 70 to trail Sorenstam by eight strokes.

Sorenstam, who topped the money-lists on both the United States and European PGA Tours this year, shot a five-under-par 68.

Henman wins

TENNIS:- Tim Henman, of Great Britain, the No 2 seed, reached the semi-finals of the ATP Challenger event on Reunion Island, Mauritius, yesterday. He overcame Laurence Tieleman, of Italy, 6-2, 6-3 and now plays Neville Godwin, of South Africa.

Weir's chance

BOXING: Paul Weir gets a chance to consolidate his position as the WBO light-flyweight champion with success against Jake Matlala, of South Africa, at the Kelvin Hall tonight. The bout is the first important event in Glasgow since the British bantamweight championship last month between Drew Docherty and James Murray, who died later in hospital.

Kelly returns

CYCLING: Sean Kelly, who retired last year after dominating international road races for five years in the mid-1980s, returns to competition next month in his home town of Carrick on Suir in a 45-mile event.

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ASTON VILLA v NEWCASTLE

Kevin Keegan usually deals in big numbers but he has not got where he has by forgetting the little things, either. Like the good luck fax he sent to Keith Gillespie before his Northern Ireland winger played such a vibrant role in the 5-3 win over Austria in Belfast on Wednesday; and like the PS at the bottom that reminded Gillespie he would be expected back at St James' Park for training at the normal time on Friday. Newcastle, eight points clear at the top, will do well to have increased that advantage by 4.45pm.

LAST SEASON: Aston Villa 0 Newcastle 2.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 2-0, —, 3-1, —, —, —, —, 0-2, 0-2.

How they line up

ASTON VILLA: M Bosnich, U Ehiogu, P McGrath, G Southgate, G Charles, I Taylor, M Draper, T Johnson, A Wright, S Milosevic, D Yorke. Substitutes (from): S Staunton, R Scimeca, N Spink, G Farrelly.
NEWCASTLE (from): S Hislop, W Barton, J Beresford, D Peacock, S Howey, K Gillespie, R Lee, L Clark, D Ginola, P Beardsley, L Ferdinand, S Watson, S Sellars, R Elliott, P Srnicek, D Huckerby.

BLACKBURN v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Forest roll on relentlessly. They are unbeaten in 25 matches in the Premiership, the only British survivors in Europe and possess two of England's goalscorers — Pearce and Stone — from the 3-1 victory over Switzerland in midweek. Contrast that to Blackburn, the champions, who have undone all the good work of last season in less than three months. Kenny Dalglish, now the Invisible Man of Ewood Park, is even rumoured to be interested in taking over from Graham Taylor at Molineux. Canny lad, is our Kenny.

LAST SEASON: Blackburn 3 Nottingham Forest 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, —, —, 4-1, —, 3-0.

How they line up

BLACKBURN (from): T Flowers, H Berg, C Hendry, G Le Saux, T Sherwood, J Kenna, D Batty, L Bohinen, S Ripley, A Shearer, M Newell, W McKinlay, C Sutton, P Warhurst, N Marker, M Holmes, G Fenton.
NOTTM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Stone, C Bart-Williams, S Gemmill, J Lee, B Roy, I Woan, D Phillips, A I Haaland, P McGregor, A Silenzi, R Irving, M Rigby.

BOLTON v WEST HAM

Sasa Curcic, Bolton's Yugoslav import, may facially resemble Concorde but he sure knows how to hit a ball. His goal, in the 3-2 Coca-Cola Cup replay win over Leicester City, travelled into the net at a speed approaching supersonic. Iain Dowie, the Northern Ireland and West Ham striker, is also known to provoke a few remarks in the good looks department but he, too, is in useful fettle at the moment. His bustling style helped overwhelm Austria in Belfast on Wednesday; Wanderers should beware a similar battering.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: No fixtures.

How they line up

BOLTON (from): K Branagan, S McAnespie, J Phillips, G Bergsson, S Curcic, A Stubbs, C Fairclough, J McGinlay, M Paatelainen, D Lee, A Thompson, S Green, F De Freitas, M Patterson, R Sneekes.
WEST HAM (from): L Miklosko, S Potts, K Rowland, T Breacker, A Martin, M Rieper, J Harkes, I Bishop, D Williamson, M Hughes, I Dowie, A Cottee, R Slater, D Hutchison, M Boogers, S Lazarides, L Sealey.

LEEDS v CHELSEA

With the boardroom battle of Stamford Bridge, between Messrs Bates and Harding, appearing to have reached an uneasy truce, it is the credibility of Chelsea's players that comes under the microscope this weekend. Various ailments have ruled out eight of them — including the influential Gullit, for the first time this season — with Glenn Hoddle forced to mix and match anybody who is available. Brolin, Leeds United's new £4.5 million signing, will endeavour to help Yeboah to rediscover his goal touch.

LAST SEASON: Leeds 2 Chelsea 3.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, 0-2, —, 4-1, 3-0, 1-1 4-1, 2-3.

How they line up

LEEDS (from): J Lukic, G Kelly, D Wetherall, R Jobson, A Dorigo, B Deane, C Palmer, G McAllister, G Speed, T Brolin, A Yeboah, N Whelan, M Ford, N Worthington, P Masinga, A Couzens, P Beesley, M Beeney.
CHELSEA (from): D Kharine, K Hitchcock, E Johnsen, N Spackman, A Myers, D Wise, M Stein, C Burley, D Lee, E Newton, P Furlong, D Rocastle, M Duberry, A Barness, G Hall, M Hughes.

LIVERPOOL v EVERTON

Just who does Stan Collymore think he is? First, he enrages his Nottingham Forest team-mates by questioning their abilities; then, after leaving for Anfield, he cries into his monstrous wage packet because Liverpool have failed to adjust to the way he likes to play. Is it not about time he stopped droning on about how unfair life is, learnt how to be humble and vowed to fight his way out of the reserves. Perhaps Roy Evans should again remind him who's the boss and let him stew on the bench for the full 90 minutes today.

LAST SEASON: Liverpool 0 Everton 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 0-2, 3-1, 2-0, 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 3-1, 1-0, 2-1, 0-0.

How they line up

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, R Jones, J Scales, M Wright, P Babb, S Harkness, S McManaman, J McAteer, J Barnes, I Rush, R Fowler, N Ruddock, S Collymore, M Kennedy, M Thomas, A Warner.
EVERTON: N Southall, M Jackson, D Watson, C Short, G Ablett, G Stuart, J Parkinson, J Ebbrell, A Limpar, P Rideout, A Kanchelskis. Substitutes (from): D Amokachi, A Grant, R Unsworth, J Kearton.

MANCHESTER UTD v SOUTHAMPTON

As if visiting Old Trafford is not daunting enough, Southampton have to do it without Le Tissier, who has succumbed to suspension after his dismissal against Liverpool last month. Though apparently consumed by self-pity, because of international rejection, Le Tissier had shown a few signs recently of having finally come to terms with it. United will be looking to Cantona, in his sixth match after exile, to recapture his former glories. Disciplinary-wise, he is coping admirably; playing-wise, he is just plain ordinary.

LAST SEASON: Manchester United 2 Southampton 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 5-1, 0-2, 2-2, 2-1, 3-2, 1-0, 2-1, 2-0, 2-1.

How they line up

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Neville, S Bruce, G Pallister, D Irwin, N Butt, R Giggs, E Cantona, P Scholes, A Cole, B McClair, L Sharpe, D Beckham, P Neville, K Pilkington.
SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, J Dodd, F Benali, B Venison, R Hall, K Monkou, J Magilton, N Maddison, G Watson, N Shipperley, N Heaney, T Widdrington, D Hughes, P Tisdale, F Bennett.

SHEFFIELD WED v MANCHESTER CITY

"Manchester City win league match" was the headline that shocked a nation two weeks ago. Summerbee's solitary goal — only City's fourth of the Premiership campaign — was enough to see off Bolton and bring a rare smile to the faces of Lee and Ball. Repeating the trick might not be easy, against a dour and difficult Wednesday side, and it will take a lot more resolve before City can clamber out of the basement. A fixture that does not inspire; one for the strangely devoted or seriously unstable only.

LAST SEASON: Sheffield Wed 1 Manchester City 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-2, 2-1, —, —, 2-0, —, 2-0, 0-3, 1-1, 1-1.

How they line up

SHEFF WED (from): K Pressman, I Nolan, L Briscoe, P Atherton, D Walker, A Pearce, A Sinton, C Waddle, G Hyde, M Pembridge, M Williams, M Degryse, G Whittingham, D Hirst, M Bright, L Key.
MAN CITY (from): E Immel, K Symons, K Curle, I Brightwell, R Edghill, G Kinkladze, G Flitcroft, S Lomas, N Summerbee, N Quinn, U Rösler, A Coton, G Creaney, M Brown, A Kernaghan.

TOTTENHAM v ARSENAL

It is perhaps appropriate that Ian Wright, not noted for his calm behaviour in the face of provocation, is missing from this resumption of north London hostilities. Wright is absent not because he has been dropped, is injured or is ill — it is because [illegible] booked six times already this season and is thus [illegible] Hartson, who can be equally niggly, replaces Wright, [illegible] still likely to need the coolest of heads and [illegible] this afternoon. Gentlemen, put on your tin hats.

LAST SEASON: Tottenham [illegible] Arsenal 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: [illegible] 1-2, 2-3, 2-1, 0-0, 1-1, 1-0, 0-1, 1-0.

How they line up

TOTTENHAM (from): [illegible] Walker, [illegible] Austin, D Howells, G Mabbutt, E [illegible], C Wilson, J Dozzell, S Sheringham, C Armstrong, R Rosenthal, [illegible] Campbell, R Fox, G McMahon, E [illegible], C Calderwood.
ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, V Bartram, L Dixon, N Winterburn, M Keown, A Adams, S Bould, J Jensen, G Helder, P Merson, J Hartson, D Platt, D Bergkamp, A Linighan, S Morrow, S Hughes, D Hillier.

WIMBLEDON v MIDDLESBROUGH

It is highly possible that Selhurst Park will witness a fascinating duel this afternoon, [illegible] first instalment likely to arrive when the match is only a few seconds old. Jones [illegible] versus the boy from Brazil. If Jones helps [illegible] Premiership defeats, Sam [illegible] Hammam, the emotional and easily outraged club chairman, may [illegible] the president of Atletico Madrid. Gil says [illegible] Real Madrid today [illegible]

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: [illegible]

How they line up

[illegible]

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal-diff	Recent form
1 Newcastle	13	34	+21	WWDWW
2 Manchester Utd	12	26	+11	DWWWL
3 Nottm Forest	12	24	+10	WWWDW
4 Arsenal	12	24	+10	LWWLW
5 Liverpool	12	23	+15	DDWWL
6 Aston Villa	12	23	+8	WLLWW
7 Middlesbrough	12	22	+5	WDWLD
8 Leeds	12	21	+4	WLDWD
9 Tottenham	12	19	+3	WLDDW
10 Chelsea	12	16	-3	WWLLD
11 Blackburn	13	14	-1	WDWLL
12 West Ham	12	13	-5	WWDWL
13 Everton	12	12	-3	LDDLW
14 Sheffield Wed	12	12	-4	LLWLD
15 Southampton	12	12	-7	LLLWW
16 QPR	12	10	-9	WLLDL
17 Wimbledon	12	10	-13	LLLLL
18 Bolton	12	8	-11	LDLWL
19 Coventry	12	7	-14	LDLLL
20 Manchester City	12	[illegible]	-17	LLDLW

TOMORROW

QPR v COVENTRY

Highfield Road's "Dream Team" of Ron Atkinson and Gordon Strachan has already entered the twilight zone, in which the spectre of the Endsleigh Insurance League looms larger with every defeat. Only Manchester City lie beneath Coventry in the table, with Big Ron and Little Gord unlikely to reap radical reward from their visit to Loftus Road. Rangers have hardly impressed this season, either, but Sinclair — if shrugging off an England training injury — should prove too tricky to tie down. More nightmares for City.

LAST SEASON: QPR 2 Coventry 2.
10-YEAR RECORD: 0-2, 3-1, 1-2, 2-1, 1-1, 1-0, 1-1, 2-0, 5-1, 2-2.

How they line up

QPR (from): J Sommer, A Roberts, R Brevett, A McDonald, K Ready, D Maddix, S Yates, S Osborn, S Barker, N Zelic, T Sinclair, A Impey, R Wilkins, T Challis, K Gallen, D Dichio.
COVENTRY (from): J Filan, B Borrows, D Busst, P Williams, M Hall, P Telfer, K Richardson, J Salako, P Ndlovu, N Lamptey, A Pickering, D Dublin, R Shaw, D Rennie, J Darby, Isaias, J Gould.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.55pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

11am Sky Sports 2 Goals on Sunday

3pm Sky Sports 2 Ford Escort Super Sunday: Queens Park Rangers v Coventry City (live)

Monday

7.50pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday Night Football: Southampton v Aston Villa (live)

Compiled by Russell Kempson, [illegible]

Irish duo to plunder valuable chases

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

THE Irish invasion traditionally occurs in the spring at Cheltenham but the lure of feature steeplechases, each worth more than £40,000 at Ascot and Aintree today, has prompted an early foray which can end in a double triumph for the visitors.

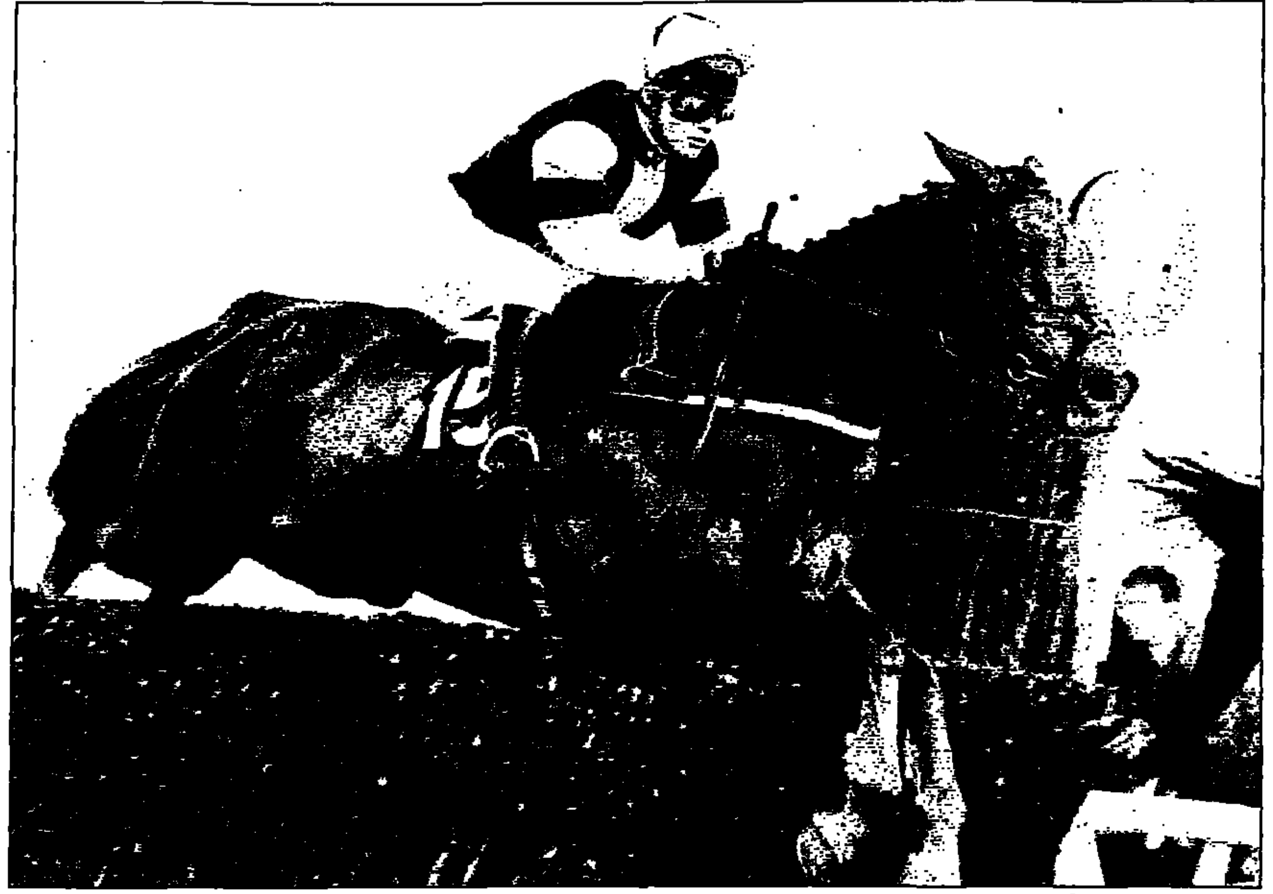
Arthur Moore, the quietly-spoken Naas trainer, has an enviable record in Britain and notably at Aintree, where more than half of his 22 runners during the past five years have won or been placed. Twelve months ago, Feathered Gale finished second behind Into The Red in the Crowther Homes Becher Chase and, although they were separated by 15 lengths that day and reoppose on similar terms, there are sound reasons for believing Moore's improving eight-year-old can gain his revenge.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: RUN UP THE FLAG
(1.20 Ascot)

NB: Keep Your Distance
(1.00 Aintree)

MARTIN LYNCH



Young Hustler has to concede two stone to his nine rivals in the Crowther Homes Becher Chase at Aintree today

Unlike Into The Red, who is making his seasonal debut and normally requires a run or two before achieving peak fitness, Feathered Gale has raced four times this term and recorded arguably his best performance when winning the Munster National Handicap at Limerick last month.

The Strong Gale gelding, who could have the Grand National at Aintree as his long-term objective, jumps and stays well and has already shown his liking for the National fences. He will be ridden by Moore's nephew, Paul Carberry.

The form of the Moore yard was advertised by Klairon Davis at Tipperary on Thursday, when the Arkle winner beat Merry Gale, and the trainer was cautiously optimistic yesterday about Feathered Gale. "He's a tough, consistent handicap chaser and a good servant who is always knocking at the door in the big races. He likes a good galloping track and it is an advantage to have been round those Aintree fences before."

A few minutes after the completion of the Aintree race, Edward O'Grady saddles Sound Man for the First National Bank Gold Cup at Ascot and the Tipperary trainer has every right to be exuding confidence about the chances of his seven-year-old.

In the Arkle last season, Sound Man failed by only half a length to beat Klairon Davis and had Camitrov nine lengths away in third, Dancing Paddy a further 12 lengths behind in fourth and a below-par Morceli back in fifth.

Not surprisingly, Sound Man has to give weight away to his rivals but with two confidence-boosting victories under his belt this season, O'Grady's sound jumper, partnered by the excellent Richard Dunwoody, can take this race on the way to even better things. Despite racing mainly on soft ground last term, the faster going should not prove an inconvenience.

Away from the gaze of the BBC cameras, **Cherrynut** is fancied to regain the winning habit in the Hurst Park Novices' Chase at Ascot (3.05) now that Paul Nicholls's novice chaser steps back in trip.

The six-year-old made Betty's Boy pull out all the stops at Worcester ten days ago over a distance just short of three miles. However, the selection possesses plenty of speed and can prove too good for Cumbrian Challenge.

On the same card, John Hills appears to have found a suitable opening for **Sheriff** in the Lion Gate Hurdle (3.40). He looked the likely winner at Kempton 17 days ago but, in a fast run race, was just worried out of it in the final strides by Wee Windy.

Despite tending to jump left, **Go Universal** showed improved form when winning at Windsor a week ago, and Charlie Brooks's chaser could be the value bet to beat Wind Force in the Halewood International Memphis Mist Chase (2.50) at Aintree.

ASCOT

THUNDERER

12.45 Danjing
1.20 Auto Pilot
1.55 Sound Man
2.30 Keep It Zipped
3.05 Cumbrian Challenge
3.40 Sheriff

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
2.30 STRONG PROMISE.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

12.45 AURELIUS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

BBC1

(3-Y-O: £4,299: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

101	12131	ALLTIME DANCER 14 (D,F,G) (H Hayman) O Sherwood 11-7	J Osborne	[illegible]
102	1221	MULTY 24 (B,D,F) (The Izz That Right Partnership) C Mann 11-7	R Dunwoody	95
103	015	OCEAN HAWK 14 (CD,F) (Miss J Broadhurst) N Twiston-Davies 11-7	D Bridgwater	80
104	1	PADDY'S RETURN 11 (F) (P O'Donnell) F Murphy 11-7	L Wyer	92
105	12	VOLUNTEER 14 (D,F) (M Marchant) R O'Sullivan 11-7	M Perrett	91
106	3	BIRTHDAY BOY 14 (T Pearson) J Jenkins 11-3	W Marston	82
107		DANJING 37F (R Green (Fine Paintings)) S Sherwood 11-3	D Gallagher	–
108	4	EURO FORUM 29 (The Forum Ltd) G L Moore 11-3	Peter Hobbs	94
109		KETCHICAN 236F (T Keller) S Knight 11-3	S Burrough	–
110	5	KING OF BABYLON 21 (R Cohen) Lady Herries 11-3	E Murphy	73
111		WITNEY-DE-BERGERAC 8F (E Houghton) J Moore 11-3	W McFarland	–
112		ZABADI 188F (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 11-3	–	–
113		MRS DOUBTFIRE (R Lynch) R Akehurst 10-12	S Ryan	–
114	3	PEDALTOTHEMETAL 7 (G Harris) P Mitchell 10-12	G Tormey	80

BETTING. 9-2 Zabadi, 11-2 Paddy's Return, 6-1 Alltime Dancer, 7-1 Multy, 8-1 Volunteer, Euro Forum, 10-1 others.

1994: SILVER WEDGE 11-7 A Maguire (1-3 fav) D Nicholson 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALLTIME DANCER beat VOLUNTEER (3lb worse off) 12l in 8-runner novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to firm) with BIRTHDAY BOY (3lb worse off) 3l 3rd and OCEAN HAWK dist 5th. MULTY beat Royal Expression 1¼l in 5-runner novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm). OCEAN HAWK beat Basil Street 3l in 8-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) on penultimate start, with KING OF BABYLON (4lb better off) 6¾l 5th. PADDY'S RETURN beat Eden Dancer 8l in 12-runner maiden hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). VOLUNTEER beat MULTY (5lb better off) 1l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. EURO FORUM 3¼l 4th of 14 to Executive Design in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). PEDALTOTHEMETAL 9l and neck 3rd of 15 to Kilcoran Bay in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good).
Selection: ALLTIME DANCER (nap)

1.20 GARDNER MERCHANT HANDICAP CHASE

BBC1

(£10,406: 3m 110yd) (7 runners)

201	121300-	GARRISON SAVANNAH 224 (D,G,S) (Autofour Eng) Mrs J Pitman 12-11-10	W Marston	[illegible]
202	3104PP-	SIBTON ABBEY 249 (D,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 10-11-9	K Gaule (3)	97
203	3134/22	BAS DE LAINE 14 (BF,F,G) (R Bids Ltd) O Sherwood 9-10-13	J Osborne	97
204	U111/12-	GHIA GNEUIAGH 399 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Scott) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-12	D Bridgwater	95
205	45512-3	RUN UP THE FLAG 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 8-10-5	P Hide	98
206	3P33P-4	SPIKEY 14 (CD,G) (S Powell) J Jenkins 9-10-0	–	92
207	0/P0111-	AUTO PILOT 211 (D,F,G,S) (C Cowley) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 7-10-0	R Greene	82

Long handicap: Spikey 9-9, Auto Pilot 9-9

BETTING: 2-1 Run Up The Flag, 4-1 Bas De Laine, 9-2 Ghia Gneuiagh, 7-1 Sibton Abbey, Spikey, 8-1 Garrison Savannah, 10-1 Auto Pilot

1994: RUN UP THE FLAG 7-10-1 Mr C Bonner (6-5 fav) J Gifford 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

GARRISON SAVANNAH 39l 9th of 35 to Royal Athlete in grade III Martell Grand National at Aintree (4m 4f, good). BAS DE LAINE head 2nd of 6 to Tug Of Peace in limited handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm). GHIA GNEUIAGH 1½l 2nd of 9 to Lucky Light in handicap chase at Kempton (3m, good). RUN UP THE FLAG 15l 3rd of 8 to Kibreet in handicap chase at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good). SPIKEY 37l last of 4 to Straight Talk in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to firm). AUTO PILOT beat Mr Invader 1½l in 10-runner novice chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good to firm).
Selection: BAS DE LAINE

1.55 FIRST NATIONAL BANK GOLD CUP CHASE

BBC1

(Limited handicap: grade II: £25,336: 2m 3f 110yd) (5 runners)

301	2222-11	SOUND MAN 14 (G,S) (D Lloyd) E O'Grady (Ire) 7-12-0	R Dunwoody	95
302	311513-	MORCELI 210 (D,G,S) (Mrs J Corbett) J Johnson 7-11-7	–	98
303	1F3421-	DANCING PADDY 210 (C,F,G,S) (Bychance Racing) K C-Brown 7-11-5	D Bridgwater	[illegible]
304	211341-	CAMITROV 207 (G,S) (J Lewis) S Christian 5-11-1	J Osborne	89
305	F111-F0	POSTAGE STAMP 7 (CD,F,G) (P O'Donnell) F Murphy 8-10-7	L Wyer	71

Long handicap: Postage Stamp 9-12

BETTING. 6-4 Morceli, 7-4 Sound Man, 9-2 Dancing Paddy, 5-1 Camitrov, 20-1 Postage Stamp.

1994: RAYMYLETTE 7-11-10 M Fitzgerald (10-1) N Henderson 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

SOUND MAN beat Brockley Court 5l in 5-runner grade III Fortria Handicap Chase at Navan (2m, good). Best effort last season when ½l 2nd of 17 to Klairon Davis in Arkle Challenge Trophy at Cheltenham Festival (2m, soft). MORCELI beat DANCING PADDY (2lb better off) 1½l in 7-runner grade I Sandeman Maghull Novices Chase at Aintree (2m, good) on penultimate start, with CAMITROV (1lb worse off) 6l 4th. DANCING PADDY beat MORCELI (1lb better off) 7l in 3-runner grade II Edinburgh Woollen Mill's Future Champion Novices Chase at Ayr (2m, good to firm). CAMITROV beat Love And Porter 2l in 8-runner grade III Bradstock Insurance EBF Novices Chase at Punchestown (2m 4f, yielding). POSTAGE STAMP 58l 11th of 12 to Dublin Flyer in grade III Mackeson Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good).
Selection: SOUND MAN

2.30 HOLLOWAYS GATE NOVICES HURDLE

(£3,631: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

401	52-1	KEEP IT ZIPPED 27 (D,F) (Mrs L Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 5-11-9	J Osborne	90
402	0P5-15	STRONG PROMISE 29 (D,F) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 4-11-9	K Gaule (3)	[illegible]
403	41	TRADE WIND 9 (B,F) (R Richards) D Elsworth 4-11-9	A Procter (3)	87
404	320/322-	ARCTIC LIFE 462 (Mrs T McCoubrey) J Jenkins 6-11-5	C Rae (7)	67
405		BLAZE AWAY 14F (P McMoni) I Balding 4-11-5	R Dunwoody	–
406		JAIRZINHO 105F (L Kirkwood) P Hayward 6-11-5	Peter Hobbs	–
407	4-	JET RULES 240 (The Jet Stationery Co) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-5	W Marston	–
408		JUST 'N ACE (Mrs J Abensur) J Gifford 4-11-5	P Hide	–
409		STARLIGHT FLYER 70F (B) (T Waters) J Long 8-11-5	R Rowell	–
410	242-	WELL ARRANGED 46F (Mrs A-M Hamilton) R Akehurst 4-11-5	D Bridgwater	72

BETTING. 7-2 Strong Promise, 4-1 Keep It Zipped, 5-1 Trade Wind, 11-2 Blaze Away, 6-1 Well Arranged, 7-1 Arctic Life, 8-1 Jet Rules, 10-1 others.

1994: GREEN LANE 6-10-11 S Ryan (9-4 fav) R Akehurst 9 ran

3.05 HURST PARK NOVICES CHASE

(£6,710: 2m) (4 runners)

501	2-1U2	CHERRYNUT 10 (BF,F,G,S) (Hunt & Co Ltd) P Nicholls 6-11-7	R Dunwoody	93
502	3260-13	CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 6 (D,F,G,S) (Cumbrian Ind Ltd) M H Easterby 6-11-3	L Wyer	[illegible]
503	112222	SIMPLY GEORGE 17 (D,F) (K Sturgis) J White 6-11-3	D Gallagher	93
504	4FF44/P-	TOTHEWOODS 415 (S) (Mrs M Scott & R Cooper) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-3	D Bridgwater	–

BETTING: 5-4 Cumbrian Challenge, 2-1 Cherrynut, 11-4 Tothewoods, 6-1 Simply George

1994: LEOTARD 7-11-0 J Osborne (4-9 fav) O Sherwood 5 ran

3.40 LION GATE HANDICAP HURDLE

(£4,697: 3m) (4 runners)

601	300/215-	IDIOT'S LADY 267 (D,S) (Mrs J Olivant) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-10	W Marston	[illegible]
602	4/160/	FORTUNES WOOD 709 (G,S) (Mrs Townshend) T Thomson Jones 9-11-5	–	–
603	F-11122	SHERIFF 17 (F,G) (C Brown) J Hills 4-11-2	R Dunwoody	94
604	B12U12-	LIEN DE FAMILLE 199 (F,S) (Mrs M Taylor) J Quinn 5-10-6	L Wyer	90

BETTING: 2-1 Sheriff, 9-4 Idiot's Lady, 5-2 Lien De Famille, 4-1 Fortunes Wood.

1994: MYSTIC MEMORY 5-10-4 M Dwyer (5-2 fav) Mrs M Reveley 9 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	11	42	26.2	J Osborne	28	96	29.2
I Balding	4	16	25.0	R Dunwoody	14	93	15.1
C Mann	3	12	25.0	W Marston	4	35	11.4
D Sherwood	11	49	22.4	D Bridgwater	4	38	10.5
S Sherwood	3	14	21.4	Only qualifiers.			
N Twiston-Davies	15	78	19.2				

Run Up The Flag can set standard

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

AINTREE
BBC1

12.30: Linden's Lotto ran his best race when five lengths third behind the useful Hill Of Tullow and Berude Not To at Chepstow, with General Command a further 13 lengths adrift in fourth place. John White's sound jumper is better off at the weights with General Command and is the clear form choice. Bone Setter got away with two bad blunders when winning at Market Rasen last Saturday and Lake Of Loughrea is a bigger threat.

1.00: Although **Keep Your Distance** dislikes cold weather, according to his trainer, Mary Reveley, the progressive five-year-old should take all the beating here. A winner six times on the Flat this year, he won a fast-run race by three lengths from Stay Awake at Newcastle on his return to hurdling two weeks ago and his speed will be invaluable around this tight track. Holy Wanderer is fairly handicapped but wins rarely and Thornton Gate, a winner only three days ago, looks a bigger danger.

1.35: see above.

ASCOT
BBC1

12.45: Zabadi won twice on the Flat for John Oxx and was placed in listed company before joining David Nicholson to go hurdling. The Shahrastani gelding has schooled well at home and is regarded as a "high class horse in the making". This race is a tough introduction with five previous winners in the field but he should run well. Euro Forum, who finished third behind Executive Design in a fast-run race at Newbury, looks the sort to improve and appreciate this stiffer track.

1.20: Back Josh Gifford's runners in November and the odds are you will make a handsome profit. The overnight defection of Monsieur Le Cure has resulted in a hefty rise in the weights and one of the main beneficiaries is **Run Up The Flag**, who has always been held in high regard by the Findon trainer. A winner of this race a year ago, he returned to action with an eye-catching run over an inadequate two miles at Chepstow a fortnight ago and looks sure to go well here. Bas De Laine, twice a good second this season, is a danger along with the progressive Auto Pilot, who has claims in spite of being 5lb out of the handicap.

1.55: see above.

Richard Evans

AINTREE

THUNDERER

12.30 Linden's Lotto
1.00 Bimsey
1.35 YOUNG HUSTLER (nap)
2.10 Simply Dashing
2.50 Wind Force
3.20 Guinda

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

12.30 TOTE BOOKMAKERS NOVICES CHASE

BBC1

(£5,458: 2m 4f) (4 runners)

1	00P-114	GENERAL COMMAND 14 (F,G) (R Ogden) G Richards 7-11-12	P Carberry	80
2	21F123	LINDEN'S LOTTO 14 (D,F,G,S) (Crocketts Racing Club) J White 6-11-12	J F Titley	[illegible]
3	35-1321	BONE SETTER 7 (D,G,S) (Lord Leverhulme) S Mellor 5-11-7	Chris Webb	87
4	5-F213F	LAKE OF LOUGHREA 17 (D,F,G) (Mrs H Duffey) K Bailey 5-11-7	T J Murphy	80

BETTING: 4-5 Linden's Lotto, 9-4 Bone Setter, 5-1 General Command, 8-1 Lake Of Loughrea.

1994: ACT OF PARLIAMENT 6-11-0 N Williamson (5-1) K Bailey 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

LINDEN'S LOTTO 5l 3rd of 9 to Hill Of Tullow in grade II novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, good) with GENERAL COMMAND (4lb worse off) 13l 4th. BONE SETTER beat Over The Comb 20l in novice chase at Market Rasen (2m 4f good to soft). LAKE OF LOUGHREA best effort beat Grey Smoke 1½l in novice chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, firm).
Selection: LINDEN'S LOTTO

1.00 STANLEY LEISURE CHILDREN IN NEED HANDICAP HURDLE

BBC1

(£10,236: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

1	50/1131-	BIMSEY 30F (D,F,G,S) (A Ryan) R Akehurst 5-12-0	G Bradley	94
2	53000-2	MISTER DRUM 14 (D,G,S) (M Batchelor) M Wilkinson 6-11-8	J F Titley	96
3	42F0-34	BEND SABLE 9 (D,F,S) (F Storey) F Storey 5-11-3	B Storey	98
4	4/F3411	WINDWARD ARIOM 6 (D,F,G,S) (A Shaw) K Burke 9-11-1	S Fox (5)	[illegible]
5	00-6323	HOLY WANDERER 10 (D,F) (Gain Partnership) T George 6-11-0	D Bentley	94
6	3303P-1	KEEP YOUR DISTANCE 14 (D,F,G) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-13	P Niven	92
7	6-3122R	VAIN PRINCE 14 (B,D,F,G,S) (A Findlay) N Tinkler 8-10-10	E Husband (5)	95
8	1403-01	THORNTON GATE 3 (D,F,G,S) (T Bennett) M H Easterby 6-10-8	R Garritty	93
9	014-00	TWICE THE GROOM 6 (D,S) (M Fairbrother) R Lee 5-10-4	P McLoughlin	98

BETTING. 2-1 Bimsey, 11-4 Keep Your Distance, 11-2 Mister Drum, 7-1 Thornton Gate, Windward Ariom, 12-1 others.

1994: SURREY DANCER 6-11-0 G Lee (6-1) Mrs M Reveley 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

BIMSEY beat Father Sky 2½l in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good to firm). MISTER DRUM 3l 2nd to Silver Groom in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to firm). BEND SABLE 9l 4th to Dancing Dove in handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good). WINDWARD ARIOM beat Ragin head in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft) with TWICE THE GROOM (9lb better off) 38l 8th. HOLY WANDERER 2l 3rd to Southampton in handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, good to firm). KEEP YOUR DISTANCE beat Stay Awake 3l in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, firm) with VAIN PRINCE (4lb better off) ran out. THORNTON GATE beat Diamond Cut 6l in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to firm).
Selection: MISTER DRUM

1.35 CROWTHER HOMES BECHER CHASE

BBC1

(Handicap: £24,508: 3m 3f) (10 runners)

1	425U2-2	YOUNG HUSTLER 21 (F,G,S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 8-12-0	C Maude	95
2	31F445-	INTO THE RED 153 (CD,G,S) (J Huckle) J White 11-10-0	R Guest	98
3	32-F351	FEATHERED GALE 34 (F,G,S) (E King) A Moore (Ire) 8-10-0	P Carberry	94
4	24643-3	OVER THE DEEL 21 (D,F,G,S) (G Tobitt) J Howard Johnson 9-10-0	J F Titley	[illegible]
5	1144P-5	SIR PETER LELY 21 (V,F,G,S) (John Doyle Const) M Hammond 8-10-0	Mr C Bonner (3)	88
6	15F21-F	GREENHILL RAFFLES 35 (C,F,G,S) (D Price) P Hobbs 9-10-0	A Dobbin	81
7	28125-U	VELEDA II 21 (B,F,G,S) (L Froomes) Mrs S Bramall 8-10-0	Mr K Whelan (5)	76
8	21P-111	OVER THE STREAM 9 (F,G) (J Gordon) K Bailey 9-10-0	T J Murphy (3)	78
9	2113-14	KILCOLGAN 21 (BF,F,S) (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 8-10-0	B Storey	65
10	P0P1-P5	CROWN EYEGLASS 59 (G,S) (Crown Eyeglass Plc) R Woodhouse 9-10-0	L O'Hara	50

Long handicap: Into The Red 9-13, Feathered Gale 9-12, Over The Deel 9-10, Sir Peter Lely 9-9, Greenhill Raffles 9-6, Veleda II 9-3, Over The Stream 8-11, Kilcolgan 7-10, Crown Eyeglass 6-3

BETTING. 9-4 Young Hustler, 11-4 Into The Red, 7-2 Feathered Gale, 6-1 Over The Deel, 10-1 others.

1994: INTO THE RED 10-10-4 R Guest (13-2) J White 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

YOUNG HUSTLER 7l 2nd to Barton Bank in grade II chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good to firm) with OVER THE DEEL (20lb better off) 25l 3rd. FEATHERED GALE beat Idiots Venture ¾l in handicap chase at Limerick (3m, good). OVER THE DEEL 13l 3rd of 35 to Royal Athlete in grade III Martell Grand National here (4m 4f, good), with INTO THE RED 1l 5th and YOUNG HUSTLER (12lb worse off) unseated rider 3rd. SIR PETER LELY 25½l last of 5 to Gnome's Tycoon in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). GREENHILL RAFFLES beat Side Of Hill dist in handicap chase here (3m 1f, good to firm) on penultimate start. OVER THE STREAM beat Titus Andronicus 7l in handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, firm).
Selection: YOUNG HUSTLER

2.10 TOTE CREDIT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£5,389: 2m 4f) (4 runners)

1	323021-	BAYARIYKA 196 (F) (Paddock Potential Racing) N Henderson 4-11-10	J R Kavanagh	92
2	23-21	SIMPLY DASHING 22 (G) (S Hammond) M H Easterby 4-11-9	R Garritty	[illegible]
3	360022-	KNUCKLEBUSTER 206 (A Brooke Rankin) R Fahey 5-11-4	G Bradley	93
4	/045-11	HIGHLAND PARK 12 (D,F) (R Craggs) R Craggs 9-10-9	P Niven	96

BETTING. 2-1 Bayariyka, 9-4 Simply Dashing, 5-2 Highland Park, 5-1 Knucklebuster.

1994: MR KNITWIT 7-10-9 A Dobbin (9-4 fav) G Richards 8 ran

2.50 HALEWOOD INTERNATIONAL MEMPHIS MIST HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,440: 2m 4f) (4 runners)

1	33-RF11	WIND FORCE 22 (CD,F,G) (J G Moreton) G Richards 10-12-0	J Railton	97
2	3U1011-	DARK OAK 211 (D,G,S) (Mrs M Curtis) J Curtis 9-10-13	L O'Hara	[illegible]
3	30-123U	HOUGHTON 14 (D,F,G,S) (G Brown) J Howard Johnson 9-10-7	J F Titley	96
4	1P-U111	GO UNIVERSAL 7 (D,F,G,S) (Universal Conference & Incentive) C Brooks 7-10-5	G Bradley	96

BETTING: 6-4 Wind Force, 7-4 Go Universal, 7-2 Dark Oak, 6-1 Houghton.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

3.20 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(Qualifier: £3,590: 2m 110yd) (4 runners)

1	P0F4-11	SCILLY CAY 17 (D,F) (Mrs D Whitaker) G Richards 6-11-5	A Dobbin	[illegible]
2		CLEVER BOY (Mrs M Curtis) J Curtis 4-11-0	L O'Hara	–
3	0050-1	GUINDA 14 (D,F) (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-0	C Maude	79
4	0/5104-	TARA RAMBLER 211 (G) (J Hanson) Miss S Hall 6-11-0	P Carberry	84

BETTING: 4-5 Scilly Cay, 7-4 Guinda, 7-2 Tara Rambler, 50-1 Clever Boy

1994: ADDINGTON BOY 6-11-10 A Dobbin (7-4 fav) G Richards 10 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 7 winners from 22 runners, 31.8%. Mrs M Reveley, 4 from 15, 26.7%. G Richards, 5 from 37, 13.5%. N Twiston-Davies, 5 from 37, 13.5%. JOCKEYS: P Niven, 4 winners from 20 rides, 20.0%. G Bradley, 3 from 20, 15.0%.

☐ Bob Champion, who beat cancer to win the 1981 Grand National on Aldaniti, saddled Pats Minstrel to land the Letheby and Christopher John Parrett Memorial Handicap Chase at Aintree yesterday.

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CATTERICK

THUNDERER

12.40 Peep O Day. 1.10 Wild Rose Of York. 1.45 King Athelstan. 2.20 On A Pedestal. 2.55 The Toaster. 3.25 Rich Desire.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

12.40 GOATHLAND MARES ONLY MAIDEN HURDLE

(£1,660: 2m 3f) (11 runners)

1	FPP-	BROAD OUTLOOK 217P M Smith 6-10-12	G Harker
2	343	DELGARTH LADY 5 J Spearing 4-10-12	Miss T Spearing (7)
3	PP-0	FOREVER SILVER 8 (B) L Lungo 5-10-12	T Reed
4	060-	HIGH PENHOWE 375 J Quinn 7-10-12	R Marley
5	445-	MARSDEN ROCK 306 N Mason 6-10-12	S Haworth (7)
6	F36-	PEEP O DAY 16F J Eyre 4-10-12	D Pears
7	040	QUEENSMEAD RULE 7 J Parkes 5-10-12	R McCarthy (7)
8	06-0	STAGGERING 38 Mrs A Naughton 6-10-12	M Foster
9	0-0	STAMSHAW 9 W Storey 6-10-12	J Supple (3)
10	00P-	THE STELL BURN 391 W Reed 5-10-12	B Harding (3)
11		ZANZARA 16F Mrs V Aconley 4-10-12	P Gould (7)

9-4 Peep O Day, 3-1 Delgarth Lady, 4-1 Zanzara, 7-1 High Penhowe, 8-1 Marsden Rock, 10-1 Forever Silver, 12-1 Staggering, 14-1 others.

1.10 DARLINGTON AND STOCKTON TIMES NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,786: 2m) (8)

1	2415	MOBILE MISS 50 (F) S Pittendrigh 4-12-1	Mr P Murray (7)
2	1211	WILD ROSE OF YORK 9 (D,F,G) P Monteith 4-12-1	B Harding (3)
3	3201	CADEAUX PREMIERE 15 (D,F) Denys Smith 4-10-11	T Reed
4	4F4-	MR MORIARTY 66F S Bowring 4-10-9	A S Smith
5	B45F	BOLANEY GIRL 9 F Murtagh 6-10-8	R Supple
6	604-	MAC RAMBLER 176F N Bycroft 5-10-0	D Towler (7)
7	5P-6	TIGERSONG 15 Miss M Milligan 5-10-0	J Callaghan
8	40-P	ROSY LYDGATE 11 S Kettlewell 4-10-0	S Taylor (7)

2-1 Cadeaux Premiere, 11-4 Wild Rose Of York, 4-1 Mobile Miss, 6-1 Mr Moriarty, 8-1 Tigersong, 10-1 Bolaney Girl, 12-1 Mac Rambler, 14-1 others.

1.45 WHITBY NOVICES CHASE (£1,592: 2m) (6)

1	4-41	HIGHLAND POACHER 11 (F,S) D McCain 8-11-6	D McCain
2	4/3-	DARK MIDNIGHT 442 D Lamb 6-11-0	A Manners (7)
3	1-P5	KING ATHELSTAN 45 (F,G,S) K Morgan 7-11-0	A S Smith
4	,P-P	NOBODYS FLAME 122 S Pittendrigh 7-11-0	Mr Chris Wilson
5	5-25	SALMAN 29 (F,G) Mrs V Ward 9-11-0	D Parker (3)
6	34-4	SHAHGRAM 35 (S) P Beaumont 7-11-0	R Supple

2-1 Highland Poacher, 9-4 King Athelstan, 7-2 Salman, 9-2 Shahgram, 12-1 Dark Midnight, 50-1 Nobodys Flame.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Thornton, 4 winners from 7 runners, 57.1%. J Quinn, 3 from 8, 37.5%. K Morgan, 10 from 33, 30.3%. Mrs P Sly, 3 from 11, 27.3%. L Lungo, 8 from 32, 25.0%.

JOCKEYS: A S Smith, 6 winners from 28 rides, 28.6%. T Reed, 11 from 73, 15.1%. D Wilkinson, 4 from 29, 13.8%. J Callaghan, 7 from 68, 10.3%. Only qualifiers.

2.20 CLEVELAND JUVENILE NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE

(£1,856: 2m) (20)

1	1F4	HEE'S A DANCER 16 (D,F) M Camacho 11-9	E Callaghan (7)
2	0	MISS MADELON 4 M W Easterby 11-4	J Driscoll
3	0	SUMMER VILLA 4 P Haslam 11-4	Sarah Bainbridge (7)
4	00	JACKMANII 43 W Kemp 11-3	K Jones
5	00	ORCHIDARMA 5 J Quinn 11-3	B Harding (3)
6		PERFECT BERTIE 82F Mrs M Kendall 11-3	Mrs M Kendall
7		BOOST 19F C Thornton 11-0	D Wilkinson
8	0	HIGHBANK 38 Mrs M Reveley 11-0	G Lee (3)
9	0	HORSETRADER 21 (V) B Baugh 11-0	Gary Lyons
10	0	KARAYLAR 7 W Storey 11-0	J Supple (3)
11		BLOTOFT 57F Mrs S Austin 10-11	T Reed
12		SEE YOU AGAIN 5F M Brittain 10-11	S Cahill (7)
13	330	ON A PEDESTAL 7 Mrs J Ramsden 10-9	D Thomas (7)
14	68	SIMAND 28 G Moore 10-9	J Callaghan
15		WARWICK MIST 292F P Haslam 10-9	M Foster
16	P	BAHAMIAN KING 11 S Kettlewell 10-8	S Taylor (7)
17	0	BROWNLOWS 16 M Brittain 10-8	A S Smith
18	5	GOLDEN FISH 25F J Eyre 10-8	D Pears
19		RUNFORACTION 138F B Rothwell 10-6	R Supple
20	6	RICANA 16F W Kemp 10-3	S McDougall

7-2 Hee's A Dancer, 5-1 Summer Villa, 6-1 Highbank, On A Pedestal, 8-1 Warwick Mist, 10-1 Simand, 14-1 Boost, 16-1 others.

2.55 DICK BREWITT MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP

(Handicap chase: £1,865: 2m 3f) (5)

1	4152	FLASH OF REALM 12 (BF,F,G,S) P Monteith 9-12-0	G Cahill (7)
2	413-	CHICHELL'S HURST 182 (F,S) Mrs P Sly 9-11-12	R Marley
3	21-2	THE TOASTER 21 (BF,G,S) J Quinn 8-11-5	A S Smith
4	2-22	CRAFTY CHAPLAIN 11 (F,S) D McCain 9-11-4	D McCain
5	/23-	GRAZEMBER 427 (F) P Beaumont 8-10-9	R Supple

2-1 The Toaster, 3-1 Grazember, 4-1 Flash Of Realm, 9-2 Chichell's Hurst, 6-1 Crafty Chaplain

3.25 WOOD HOUSE HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,657: 3m 1f 110yd) (6)

1	22-1	RICH DESIRE 11 (F,S) F Murphy 6-12-0	D J Kavanagh (7)
2	1P3-	TROODOS 322 (CD,F,G) Mrs S Austin 9-11-9	D Wilkinson
3	236-	D'ARBLAY STREET 242 (B,S) W Kemp 6-10-6	S McDougall
4	020-	NEW CHARGES 172 (G) P Beaumont 8-10-0	S Gratton (7)
5	123-	RUA ROS 247 (CD,S) Mrs S Smith 5-10-0	L Donnelly (7)
6	4P4U	SHELTON ABBEY 11 (D,F,G,S) J Wade 9-10-0	D Ryan (7)

7-4 Rich Desire, 3-1 D'Arblay Street, 9-2 Shelton Abbey, 6-1 Rua Ros, 8-1 New Charges, 10-1 Troodos

Britain's high hopes

TAUFAN'S MELODY (Ray Cochrane) and Royal Scimitar (Richard Quinn) contest the £23,952 listed Grand Prix de Bordeaux (1m 4f) at Bordeaux le Bouscat tomorrow. Victorious in his last two runs in France, Taufan's Melody won the listed Grand Prix de la Ville de Nantes over this trip at Nantes on November 5.

TOWCESTER

THUNDERER

12.55 Killing Time. 1.30 Elegant King. 2.00 Cailin Glas. 2.35 Really A Rascal. 3.10 Brogeen Lady. 3.45 Meanus Miller.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.55 Joys First. 3.45 **NAGOBELIA** *(nap).*

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.55 INTERNATIONAL SPINAL RESEARCH TRUST NOVICES SELLING HURDLE

(£2,080: 2m) (15 runners)

1	3-15	LORD GLENVARA 19 (BF,G) T McGovern 7-11-6	R Johnson (5)
2	R6B-	ANTARTICTERN 23F G Oldroyd 5-11-0	P Midgley (3)
3	/3F	ASSEMBLY DANCER 9 D Williams 8-11-0	M Clarke (7)
4	05-P	BALLYDANTE 22 D Gandolfo 5-11-0	M Dwyer
5	30-P	BARRYBEN 42 W Brisbourne 6-11-0	M Brennan
6	05-3	BEECHFIELD FLYER 22 W Clay 4-11-0	B Fenton (5)
7	243-	EULOGY 221 K Burke 8-11-0	A Larnach (3)
8	P52	GO AGAIN 23 J Upson 6-11-0	C Davies (7)
9	0-05	JOYS FIRST 9 H Collingridge 4-11-0	S McNeill
10	0330	KILLING TIME 9 (V) Mrs L Richards 4-11-0	B Powell
11	00U0	MIRAMARE 14 (B) C James 5-11-0	A Thornton
12		PERSIAN GUSHER 525F E Birchall 5-11-0	Mr M Rodda
13	P4-P	SUNGIA 15 (B) Graeme Roe 6-11-0	Philip Hughes (7)
14		TRAPEZE 180F C Popham 4-11-0	P Holley
15	00-	TAMANDU 16F C James 5-10-9	I Lawrence

4-1 Eulogy, 9-2 Beechfield Flyer, 5-1 Lord Glenvara, 7-1 Go Again, 8-1 Killing Time, Trapeze, 10-1 Joys First, 12-1 others.

1.30 DAILY EXPRESS NOVICES CHASE

(£3,556: 3m 1f) (5)

1	2-43	ELEGANT KING 14 (F,G,S) A Jarvis 6-11-2	A Larnach (3)
2	4	JOESTONE 16 (G,S) O Brennan 10-11-2	M Brennan
3	340-	MOBILE MESSENGER 282 (S) T George 7-11-2	R Johnson (5)
4	5P-	SUFFOLK ROAD 233 (G,S) P Rowe 8-11-2	D O'Sullivan
5	U4-U	DOC COTTRILL 17 (S) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-0	L Harvey

5-4 Elegant King, 4-1 Doc Cottrill, Suffolk Road, 6-1 Mobile Messenger, Joestone

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: O Brennan, 25 winners from 93 runners, 26.9%. J Old, 6 from 31, 19.4%. H Collingridge, 3 from 17, 17.6%. T Thomson Jones, 4 from 23, 17.4%. J Upson, 9 from 54, 16.7%. D Gandolfo, 5 from 34, 14.7%.

JOCKEYS: M Brennan, 25 winners from 85 rides, 29.4%. L Harvey, 13 from 95, 13.7%. T Grantham, 5 from 37, 13.5%. Only qualifiers.

☐ Val d'Alene has been withdrawn from the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury a week today in favour of the Prix Georges Covertois early next month.

2.00 JEREMY EYDEN MAIDEN HURDLE

(£2,248: 2m 5f) (15)

1	00-2	AH THERE YOU ARE 35 K Bailey 6-10-12	A Thornton
2	-300	CAPTAIN STOCKFORD 14 P Wegmann 8-10-12	W Humphreys
3	0P-0	CORRIB SONG 14 T Forster 6-10-12	L Harvey
4		DOOGEM M Williams 7-10-12	P Crowley (7)
5	55-5	DUGORT STRAND 7 O Brennan 4-10-12	M Brennan
6	504-	EALING COURT 210 (G) K Burke 6-10-12	A Larnach (3)
7	4	LUKE WARM 23 D Gandolfo 5-10-12	M Dwyer
8	0-	RAMBLING ON 208 C Drew 5-10-12	I Lawrence
9	2-65	RYAN GIGGS 7 A Jarvis 4-10-12	P Morris (7)
10	66-	SPACEAGE GOLD 238 J Old 6-10-12	T Grantham
11	425-	CAILIN GLAS 206 N Chance 6-10-7	D Finnegan (7)
12	-060	FLY IN AMBER 14 D French Davis 4-10-7	P Holley
13	00-P	HERBIDACIOUS 14 M Roberts 5-10-7	B Powell
14	P-	KIKI SU 173 (G) A Jones 7-10-7	S McNeill
15	P/	TANGO COUNTRY 605 P Jones 6-10-7	Mr L Baker (7)

3-1 Ah There You Are, 9-2 Cailin Glas, 5-1 Ealing Court, 6-1 Ryan Giggs, 7-1 Luke Warm, 8-1 Spaceage Gold, 10-1 Corrib Song, 12-1 others.

2.35 NATIONAL LETTERBOX MARKETING HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,585: 2m 6f) (7)

1	F3P-	BOLL WEEVIL 206 (CD,G,S) O Sherwood 9-12-0	J A McCarthy
2	P15-	REALLY A RASCAL 343 (S) D Gandolfo 8-11-6	M Dwyer
3	223-	NICKLUP 233 (S) T Forster 8-11-3	A Thornton
4	UU2-	MR INVADER 211 (S) N Gaselee 8-11-0	B Powell
5	4PP-	TALE OF ENDURANCE 227 (D,S) C Mann 7-10-12	R Johnson (5)
6	/1-5	URBAN COWBOY 14 (G) C James 8-10-4	S McNeill
7	016-	DERRING VALLEY 253 (B,CD,F,G,S) A Jones 10-10-1	L Harvey

2-1 Really A Rascal, 3-1 Boll Weevil, 7-2 Nicklup, 6-1 Mr Invader, 10-1 Derring Valley, 12-1 Urban Cowboy, 16-1 Tale Of Endurance

3.10 NEMESVARY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,861: 3m) (7)

1	0-5	NUPDOWN BOY 17 N Chance 6-11-0	R Johnson (5)
2	3-3	PROFESSOR PAGE 11 (BF) T Thomson Jones 5-11-0	B Powell
3	0-P	RIVER THRUST 17 (B) O Sherwood 5-11-0	J A McCarthy
4	F25-	TIRLEY MISSILE 190 (F,S) I Smith 9-11-0	R Davis
5	0P0-	WILLERFOSS 214 B Rothwell 5-11-0	B Fenton (3)
6		BROGEEN LADY D Gandolfo 5-10-9	M Dwyer
7	F-0	MAGIC CAVE 17 A Jarvis 7-10-9	P Morris (7)

2-1 Professor Page, 7-2 Brogeen Lady, 5-1 Nupdown Boy, 6-1 River Thrust, 7-1 Magic Cave, 10-1 Tirley Missile, 12-1 Willerfoss.

3.45 HEATON-ELLIS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,756: 2m) (9)

1	-052	CELIBATE 14 (D,S) C Mann 4-11-10	Muiredach Kelly (7)
2	22-3	NORDANSK 7 (CD,BF,F,S) M Madgwick 6-11-5	B Fenton (5)
3	6-56	NAGOBELIA 8 (D,F,G,S) J Pearce 7-11-1	M Brennan
4	2/3	BLAZON OF TROY 17 (D,F,G) T Thomson Jones 6-10-13	B Powell
5	022-	SOPHIE MAY 245 (S) G L Moore 4-10-13	A Thornton
6	.4F-	GENERAL TONIC 324 D Gandolfo 8-10-8	M Dwyer
7	1P3-	DOCTOR DEATH 241 (V,S) S Dow 4-10-6	A Dicken
8	13-4	MEANUS MILLER 14 (S) K Burke 7-10-3	D O'Sullivan
9	-3FP	SHAMSHADAL 56 (D,S) J Jenkins 5-10-2	R Johnson (5)

9-4 Meanus Miller, 7-2 Blazon Of Troy, 9-2 General Tonic, 6-1 Celibate, 7-1 Sophie May, 8-1 Nordansk, 10-1 Nagobelia, 12-1 Doctor Death, 14-1 others.

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11/4	Keep Your Distance
11/2	Mister Drum
7/1	Windward Ariom
8/1	Thornton Gate
14/1	Bend Sable
14/1	Vain Prince
16/1	Holy Wanderer
25/1	Twice The Groom

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Watering partly responsible for three-horse mêlée

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Maguire is carried to the ambulance in a neck brace after his fall from Hatcham Boy on the home bend at Ascot yesterday

Maguire hurt in Ascot pile-up

By Julian Muscat

ASCOT's attempt to counter the unseasonally fast ground by dousing the course with water was yesterday held partly responsible for a three-horse pile-up that left Adrian Maguire in hospital nursing injuries to his ankle and neck.

The mêlée, which left horses and jockeys prostrate at the entrance to the home straight, occurred as Maguire, riding Hatcham Boy, pressed the leader, Graphic Designer, in the closing stages to the Punch Bowl Novices' Hurdle. Maguire's mount fell without warning in a tightly packed field, bringing down Tony McCoy on Jimmy's Cross and Peter Hobbs aboard Crane Hill.

Both McCoy and Hobbs returned unaided, if gingerly, to the weighing room but Maguire, his neck supported by a brace, was examined in the jockeys' hospital on the course. He was quickly transferred for X-rays to Wexham Park Hospital in Slough.

At the subsequent inquiry the stewards found no fault with any jockey. "It was impossible for the stewards to apportion blame from the video evidence," the acting stewards' secretary, Jeremy Ker, said. "I personally felt he [Maguire's horse] must have slipped or crossed his legs."

David Nicholson, who retains Maguire's services, subsequently withdrew two runners, Putty Road and Martin's Lamp, but was waived any fine. "David said he didn't want anyone else to ride his horses on this ground, which is a bit slippery," Ker said.

The conundrum confronting Ascot over its fast racing surface is not new. The lack of significant rain in recent weeks has decimated field sizes. Autumn watering, while undesirable, has been necessary at most venues as the risk of injury to horses has greatly increased. It is therefore ironic, given the lack of a satisfactory explanation for Maguire's fall, that a stretch of slippery ground on the home turn may have been responsible.

Hobbs, clearly shaken by the spill, later said of the mêlée: "The race was run at a slow gallop — everyone was on top of each other and it got a bit tight. Adrian's horse collided with the running rail and Tony [McCoy] and I were brought down." Initial indications suggested all three horses escaped serious injury.

It was to prove an eventful day for McCoy, who today starts a seven-day suspension for his part in the incident at Taunton earlier this month when six horses took the wrong course. Thirty five minutes before his fall, McCoy had tumbled from Charmer's Well in the Charles Davis Novices' Handicap Chase. But he later bounced back to land the Manicou Handicap Chase aboard the Hobbs-trained Kibreet.

Star of the equine show was undoubtedly Large Action, whose winning return to hurdles could not have been better scripted. If anything, his sole outing over the bigger obstacles last month served to sharpen his jumping as he made all the running to fend off Atours, who conceded 5lb, in the Coopers and Lybrand Ascot Hurdle over 2½ miles.

"He has been prone to making one mistake in his races but he was foot-perfect today," noted Large Action's trainer, Oliver Sherwood.

Ladbrokes saw enough in the performance to quote Large Action the 9-2 clear favourite for the Champion Hurdle, but Coral reserved judgment in keeping the injury-prone Alderbrook, winner of the race last season, at the head of their list.

NOTTINGHAM

THUNDERER

12.35 Crazy Horse Dancer. 1.05 Flying Instructor. 1.40 Glenfinn Princess. 2.15 Lucy Tufty. 2.45 Danzig Island. 3.15 Persian Tactics.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.15 Lucy Tufty.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

12.35 ST ANNS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,126: 3m 110yd) (13 runners)

1 46-3 CHAMPAGNE GOLD 27 (C,G,S) J McConnochie 9-11-10 M Sharratt
2 6-65 DOMINION TREASURE 64 (B,F,G,S) R Baker 10-11-10 G Upton
3 4-43 MARDOOD 147 (G,S) S Clark 10-11-10 Miss R Clark (7)
4 0/0- BORRISMORE FLASH 173 J Bradley 7-11-8 R Farrant
5 400- LAW FACULTY 183 G Ham 5-10-13 R Massey (5)
6 P/P HELLO SAM 68 (F) J Bennett 12-10-12 D Skyrme
7 F36- CRAZY HORSE DANCER 324 (F,G,S) F Jordan 7-10-11 J Lodder
8 0000 CHANCE ENCOUNTER 23 (B) Mrs S Williams 5-10-7 A Tory
9 23P1 BALZINO 11 (B,F) N Tinkler 6-10-7 Miss P Jones
10 345P PENARTH 15 (F) R Price 9-10-6 S Wynne
11 24R4 KING ACRYLIC 17 B Brotherton 4-10-0 S Lyons (3)
12 /03 ESCAPE TALK 11 J Dooler 9-10-0 W Fry
13 1P/5 KINGSWOOD KITCHENS 11 (F,G) A Carroll 15-10-0 D Walsh (5)

7-2 Balzino, 5-1 Mardood, 6-1 Crazy Horse Dancer, 7-1 Champagne Gold, 8-1 Law Faculty, 10-1 Dominion Treasure, 14-1 others.

1.05 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,202: 2m) (8)

1 03-0 FLYING INSTRUCTOR 15 P Webber 5-11-0 R Bellamy
2 30-4 ICE COLD IN ALEX 14 W Jenks 4-11-0 S Wynne
3 00- RELUCKINO 238 C Broad 5-11-0 G Hogan (3)
4 60-3 ROGER DE MOWBRAY 11 R Brotherton 5-11-0 S Lyons (3)
5 330- RUN ON THE RUN 215 J Dunn 5-11-0 G McCourt
6 P/ SILVER FOR SURE 1076 J Cresswell 6-11-0 B Clifford
7 0-5 SNITTON STREAM 24 G Yardley 5-11-0 D Walsh (5)
8 05 TARTAN TEDDY 56 J Wharton 5-11-0 B Dalton

6-4 Ice Cold In Alex, 3-1 Roger De Mowbray, 7-2 Flying Instructor, 6-1 Run On The Run, 8-1 Reluckino, 16-1 Snitton Stream, 20-1 others.

1.40 HIGHGROVE DEVELOPMENTS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,538: 2m 5f 110yd) (4)

1 4-FF GLENFINN PRINCESS 42 (S) Mrs M Jones 7-11-10 D Byrne
2 2F-4 JUDICIAL FIELD 8 (B,S) N Tinkler 6-11-7 G McCourt
3 623U OH SO HANDY 5 (B,D,F) R Curtis 7-11-2 D Morris
4 -03S ON THE TEAR 10 F Lloyd 9-10-0 S Wynne

4-5 Judicial Field, 7-4 Glenfinn Princess, 6-1 Oh So Handy, 8-1 On The Tear

2.15 GEORGE FARNDON LADY RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,150: 2m) (4)

1 5-32 NEVER SO BLUE 14 P Bradley 4-11-13 Sophie Mitchell (5)
2 U122 LUCY TUFTY 16 (S) J Pearce 4-11-1 Miss P Robson
3 233- PAIR OF JACKS 10F D Wilson 5-10-12 Miss P Jones
4 0-33 MHEMEANLES 15 (F) Capt J Wilson 5-10-4 Jacqui Oliver

7-4 Pair Of Jacks, 2-1 Lucy Tufty, 9-4 Never So Blue, 7-1 Mhemeanles

2.45 HIGHGROVE DEVELOPMENTS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,461. 2m 5f 110yd) (9)

1 0-0 AUGUSTAN 7 S Gollings 4-11-0 G McCourt
2 0 BAYMATIC 22 Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0 R Farrant
3 /3 CORN EXCHANGE 15 (F) R Price 7-11-0 G Upton
4 443- DANZIG ISLAND 241 W Jenks 4-11-0 S Wynne
5 IRISH LUCK P Dalton 5-11-0 T Eley
6 5 NEEDWOOD JOKER 23 J A Harris 4-11-0 J Lodder
7 5 TOMMY COOPER 10 (V) Mrs B Waring 4-11-0 E Byrne
8 5-60 CARLY-J 14 F Jackson 4-10-9 G Hogan (3)
9 0/5 WAR FLOWER 11 (G) A Carroll 7-10-9 D Walsh (5)

11-10 Danzig Island, 4-1 Baymatic, 5-1 Needwood Joker, 6-1 Tommy Cooper, 10-1 Carly-J, Corn Exchange, 14-1 others

3.15 RADIO TRENT NOVICES CHASE (£3,054: 2m) (4)

1 1223 NOBLELY 17 (D,F,G,S) N Waggott 8-11-6 R Farrant
2 0/1 SEATWIST 9 (D,F) J Pickering 6-11-6 M Sharratt
3 /23 PERSIAN TACTICS 8 (BF,G,S) K Bailey 6-11-0 J Magee (3)
4 GOLDEN OLIVE P Webber 6-10-9 G McCourt

7-4 Persian Tactics, 2-1 Noblely, 3-1 Seatwist, 9-2 Golden Olive

3.30 HIGHGROVE BIRTHDAY HANDICAP CHASE (£5,850: 2m) (1 runner)

1 42-4 RODEO STAR 7 (B,D,F,G,S) N Tinkler 9-11-10 G McCourt, walks over

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 6 winners from 28 runners, 21.4%. Only qualifier

JOCKEYS: R Farrant, 4 winners from 19 rides, 21.1%; G McCourt, 11 from 58, 19%; T Eley, 6 from 46, 13%; G Upton, 3 from 25, 12.0%

Blinkered first time

AINTREE: 1 35 Veleda II. ASCOT: 2 30 Starlight Flyer. CATTERICK BRIDGE: 12 40 Forever Silver, 2 30 Horsetrader. NOTTINGHAM: 12.35 Chance Encounter, Dominion Treasure. 2.45 Tommy Cooper. TOWCESTER: 12 55 Sungia, Miramare. 3 10 River Thrust.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Ascot

Going: good, good to firm in places

1.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, LIVELY KNIGHT (L Aspell, 6-4 fav), 2, Swing Quartet (S Joynes, 7-4); 3, Far Springs (J Magee, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 10 Dawn Flight (4th), 12 Bertraghboy Bay (5th), 33 Kindakoola (pu). 6 ran. 3½l, 10l, 9l, dist. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £2.40; £1.60, £1.50. DF: £2.10. CSF: £4.17.

1.35 (3m 110yd ch) 1, DOCS DILEMMA (R Dunwoody, 7-2), 2, Texan Baby (C Maude, 7-1); 3, Certain Angle (G Tormey, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Charmer's Well (ur), 7-2 Cool Character (ur). 5 ran. Dist, dist. K Bailey at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £3.00; £1.20, £3.00. DF: £10.20. CSF: £21.49

2.10 (3m hdle) 1, FOXBOW (J Osborne, 7-1), 2, Graphic Designer (M Perrett, 20-1); 3, Normarange (M Richards, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Crane Hill (bd), 9-2 Hatcham Boy (f), Jimmy's Cross (bd), 11-2 Edina (pu), 7 Camp Bank (4th), 100 Milo Boy (ur). 9 ran. 10l, 1½l, hd. O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £7.20; £2.10, £2.70, £6.70. DF: £57.50. Trio: £171.10. CSF: £105.78. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

2.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, LARGE ACTION (J Osborne, 8-15 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Atours (P Holley, 100-30); 3, Morley Street (G Bradley, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Oh So Risky (f), 25 Call My Guest (4th). 5 ran. NR: Putty Road. 1½l, 12l, dist. O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £1.70. DF: £2.10. CSF: £2.63

3.10 (2m ch) 1, KIBREET (A P McCoy, 5-4 fav); 2, Gales Cavalier (M Dwyer, 7-4), 3, Rupples (W Worthington, 66-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Wonder Man (4th). 4 ran. NR: Martin's Lamp. 5l, dist, dist. P Hobbs at Minehead. Tote: £2.10; £2.00. DF: £2.00. CSF: £3.54.

3.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, NON VINTAGE (W Worthington, 10-1), 2, Sublime Fellow (M A Fitzgerald, 3-1); 3, Golden Arrow (J Osborne, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Silver Groom (4th), 10 Amancio, Shoofk (5th), 11 Sun Surfer, 14 Maneree (6th), Statajack, 20 Thinking Twice, 25 Kingsfold Pet. 11 ran. 4l, ½l, 10l, 4l, 7l. M Chapman at Market Rasen. Tote: £10.00; £2.00, £1.90, £2.80. DF: £27.90. Trio: £133.90. CSF: £40.06. Tricast: £400.66. After a stewards' inquiry, Silver Groom, who finished third, was placed fourth.

Jackpot: £2,105.60.

Placepot: £110.00. Quadpot: £28.90.

Aintree

Going: good to firm, firm in places

1.15 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, TAKE THE BUCKSKIN (G McCourt, 9-4), 2, Kalasadi (S Curran, Evens fav); 3, Delusman (M Moloney, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Brumon (f). 4 ran. 7l, dist. T Thomson Jones at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.90. DF: £1.80. CSF: £4.91

1.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, ANLACE (Chris Webb, 7-1), 2, Thisonesforalice (F Perratt, 15-2); 3, Frontier Flight (E Husband, 13-8 fav). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Tashreef (4th), 11-2 Don Tocino (5th), 11 Dodgy Dancer (6th). 6 ran. NR: Explore Mondial. 8l, 1¾l, 2½l, 11l, 25l. S Mellor at Swindon. Tote: £8.30; £2.50, £2.70. DF: £13.60. CSF: £46.05.

2.20 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, PATS MINSTREL (A Dobbin, 9-1), 2, De Jordaan (R Johnson, 2-1). ALSO RAN: 8-13 fav Clay County (f). 3 ran. 20l. R Champion at Newmarket. Tote: £4.20. DF: £3.90. CSF: £20.51

2.50 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, ROSINA MAE (R Garritty, 5-2), 2, Jawani (N Mann, 2-1), 3, Grace Card (L O'Hara, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 6-4 fav Adnen (ur). 4 ran. NR: Alnerton Green. 8l, dist. Mrs J Ramsden at Thirsk. Tote: £3.20. DF: £3.30. CSF: £7.35

3.20 (3m 1f ch) 1, SEOD RIOGA (Chris Webb, 2-1), 2, Spanish Light (A Dobbin, 4-7 fav). ALSO RAN: 8 Mony-Skip (f). 3 ran. 3l. S Mellor at Swindon. Tote: £2.70. DF: £1.40. CSF: £3.37

3.50 (2m 110yd flat race) 1, LA BELLA VILLA (M Keighley, 5-2); 2, Rachael's Dawn (O Pears, 4-7 fav); 3, Ri Ra (Gary Lyons, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 14 Martha Buckle (5th), Polly Cinders (4th). 5 ran. 5l, 9l, 15l, 2½l. N Twiston-Davies at Cheltenham. Tote: £3.50; £2.50, £1.10. DF: £1.40. CSF: £4.54.

Placepot: £1,840.90. Quadpot: £129.00.

☐ The meeting at Sedgefield was abandoned because of snow.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Catterick Bridge (first race, 12.40); Folkestone (1.00); Southwell (AW, 1.20)

TUESDAY: Cheltenham (C4, 12.45), Huntingdon (C4, 1.00), Lingfield Park (AW, 1.10).

WEDNESDAY: Chepstow (1.20), Hexham (1.10), Windsor (1.00).

THURSDAY: Carlisle (1.10), Taunton (1.00), Uttoxeter (12.50)

FRIDAY: Bangor (1.20), Newbury (1.00), Southwell (AW, 1.10).

SATURDAY: Haydock Park (1.10), Lingfield Park (AW, 12.50), Newcastle (C4, 12.40), Newbury (BBC, 12.45), Warwick (12.30)

Flat meetings in bold

☐ Sue's Artiste, trained by Barry Hills and ridden by Michael Hills, and Mountains Of Mist, trained by Roger Charlton and ridden by Eric Saint-Martin, finished ninth and tenth respectively in the group three Prix Fille de l'Air over 10½ furlongs at Evry yesterday. The race was won by Marie De Ken.

☐ Peter Chapple-Hyam's two-year-old Latin Reign, the mount of John Reid, will be out to give the Manton trainer a second consecutive success in the ten furlong group two Premio Guido Berardelli in Rome tomorrow. John Dunlop runs Lavinia Fontana on the same card.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Aston Villa v Newcastle
(2) Blackburn v Nottingham Forest
(3) Bolton v West Ham
(4) Leeds v Chelsea
(5) Liverpool v Everton
(6) Manchester Utd v Southampton
(7) Sheffield Weds v Manchester City
(8) Tottenham v Arsenal
(9) Wimbledon v Middlesbrough

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	13	11	1	1	30	9	34
Man Utd	12	8	2	2	23	12	26
Nottm F	12	6	6	0	23	13	24
Arsenal	12	7	3	2	18	6	24
Liverpool	12	7	2	3	25	10	23
A Villa	12	7	2	3	17	9	23
Middlsbro	12	6	4	2	12	7	22
Leeds	12	6	3	3	18	14	21
Tottenham	12	5	4	3	19	16	19
Chelsea	12	4	4	4	11	14	16
Blackburn	13	4	2	7	16	17	14
West Ham	12	3	4	5	11	16	13
Everton	12	3	3	6	13	16	12
Sheff Wed	12	3	3	6	9	13	12
Southampton	12	3	3	6	13	20	12
QPR	12	3	1	8	10	19	10
Wimbledon	12	3	1	8	16	29	10
Bolton	12	2	2	8	12	23	8
Coventry	12	1	4	7	10	24	7
Man City	12	1	2	9	4	21	5

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

(10) Derby v Charlton
(11) Grimsby v West Bromwich
(12) Luton v Birmingham
(13) Millwall v Huddersfield
(14) Port Vale v Watford
(15) Portsmouth v Stoke
(16) Reading v Barnsley
(17) Sunderland v Sheffield Utd
(-) Wolverhampton v Oldham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millwall	16	9	5	2	21	14	32
Leicester	16	9	4	3	28	20	31
Birmingham	16	8	5	3	27	16	29
Sundrland	15	6	7	2	18	14	25
Tranmere	14	6	6	2	26	14	24
Norwich	16	6	6	4	22	18	24
West Brom	16	7	3	6	22	21	24
Grimsby	16	6	6	4	19	18	24
Charlton	16	5	8	3	19	14	23
Barnsley	16	6	4	6	23	30	22
Oldham	16	5	7	4	22	18	22
Huddersfld	16	6	4	6	21	23	22
Stoke	16	5	6	5	24	21	21
Derby	16	5	6	5	20	23	21
Ipswich	16	5	5	6	27	25	20
Southend	16	5	4	7	16	22	19
Reading	16	4	6	6	20	23	18
Wolvrhmptn	16	4	6	6	18	20	18
Sheff Utd	16	5	2	9	24	29	17
C Palace	15	4	5	6	16	20	17
Watford	16	3	6	7	20	24	15
Portsmth	16	3	5	8	21	28	14
Luton	16	3	4	9	11	23	13
Port Vale	16	2	6	8	16	23	12

LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry v Rhyl; Caernarfon B v Caernarfon; Connah's Q v Inter Cardiff; Conwy v Afan Lido; Cwmbran v Holywell (2.30); Ebbw Vale v Caersws; Flint v Bangor (2.30); Llanelli v Ton Pentre; Llansantffraid v Porthmadog; Newtown v Aberystwyth (2.30).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Cliftonville; Glentoran v Crusaders; Linfield v Glenavon; Portadown v Bangor. First division: Carrick v Ballymena; Coleraine v Omagh; Larne v Distillery; Newry v Ballyclare.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Ipswich v Fulham, Leyton Orient v Charlton; Millwall v Arsenal; Norwich v Chelsea; Portsmouth v Cambridge; QPR v Tottenham; Southend v Gillingham; Watford v West Ham.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bootle v Prescot; Darwen v Kidsgrove; Holker OB v Chadderton; Nantwich v Blackpool Rvrs; Penrith v Glossop; Rossendale v St Helens; Salford v Burscough.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Kempston; Bourne v Long Buckby; Cogenhoe v Spalding; Eynesbury v Mirrlees Blackstone; Northampton Spencer v Potton; Stamford v Desborough; S and L Corby v Newport Pagnell; Stotfold v St Neots; Wellingborough v Holbeach.

FUJI FILM SCHOOLS TROPHY: Third round: Havering v SE Sussex; Hackney v Decorum; Newham v Barnet (11.0); Islington v Norwich (11 0); Ipswich v Worthing (1 0); Swindon v Exeter (11.30); Worcester v Nottingham (10.45); Derby v Coventry; W Lancs v Wirral; Wrexham v Bury; N Tyneside v Leeds (11 0); Huddersfield v Oldham; Preston v Darlington; York v Newcastle.

Second division

(18) Blackpool v York
(19) Bournemouth v Brentford
(20) Bradford v Hull
(21) Brighton v Walsall
(22) Bristol City v Carlisle
(23) Crewe v Swansea
(24) Notts County v Chesterfield
(25) Peterborough v Oxford Utd
(26) Shrewsbury v Burnley
(27) Stockport v Swindon
(28) Wrexham v Rotherham
(29) Wycombe v Bristol Rovers

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	16	11	4	1	32	12	37
Crewe	15	9	4	2	30	16	31
Notts Co	16	8	4	3	26	15	28
Wycombe	16	7	7	2	24	15	28
Blackpool	16	8	4	4	23	15	28
Chestrfld	16	8	3	5	23	15	27
Burnley	16	7	5	4	25	18	26
Bradford	16	7	3	6	23	25	24
Wrexham	16	6	6	4	21	20	24
Stockport	16	5	7	4	18	14	22
Bournemth	16	6	4	6	18	19	22
Oxford Utd	16	5	6	5	20	18	21
Bristol R	16	6	3	7	17	25	21
Shrwsbury	16	6	2	8	22	25	20
Rotherham	16	5	5	6	21	22	20
Peterboro	16	4	6	6	21	25	18
Swansea	16	4	6	6	18	22	18
Walsall	16	4	5	7	18	16	17
Bristol City	15	4	5	6	13	19	17
York	16	4	3	9	17	27	15
Brentford	16	4	3	9	12	22	15
Carlisle	16	3	5	8	18	25	14
Brighton	16	3	3	10	13	26	12
Hull	16	1	7	8	10	23	10

Third division

(30) Cardiff v Bury
(31) Darlington v Scunthorpe
(32) Doncaster v Colchester
(33) Exeter v Preston
(34) Fulham v Barnet
(35) Hartlepool v Plymouth
(36) Leyton Orient v Cambridge Utd
(37) Mansfield v Chester
(38) Northampton v Wigan
(39) Rochdale v Hereford
(40) Scarborough v Gillingham
(41) Torquay v Lincoln

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston	16	8	7	1	37	17	31
Chester	16	9	4	3	29	16	31
Gillingham	16	8	6	2	22	6	30
Rochdale	16	8	4	4	32	18	28
Colchester	16	7	6	3	25	17	27
Plymouth	16	7	4	5	27	19	25
Darlington	16	6	7	3	18	13	25
Doncaster	16	6	5	5	18	21	23
Cambs Utd	16	6	4	6	27	27	22
Wigan	16	5	6	5	21	21	21
Bury	16	5	5	6	20	25	20
Scunthpe	16	5	5	6	23	19	20
L Orient	16	5	5	6	18	21	20
Exeter	16	4	8	4	17	20	20
Hereford	16	4	7	5	20	20	19
Northmptn	16	5	4	7	18	18	19
Fulham	16	3	9	4	21	20	18
Scarboro	16	4	6	6	18	23	18
Hartlepool	16	4	6	6	14	23	18
Mansfield	16	3	8	5	22	31	17
Cardiff	16	4	5	7	15	17	17
Barnet	16	3	7	6	15	23	16
Lincoln	16	2	5	9	14	33	11
Torquay	16	2	4	10	16	37	10

Vauxhall Conference

(-) Altrincham v Macclesfield
(-) Bath v Northwich
(-) Dagenham and Red v Halifax
(-) Farnborough v Bromsgrove
(-) Gateshead v Kettering
(-) Kidderminster v Runcorn
(-) Morecambe v Dover
(-) Slough v Woking
(-) Stalybridge v Hednesford
(-) Stevenage v Southport
(-) Welling v Telford

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bamber Br v Buxton; Barrow v Spennymoor; B Auckland v Accrington, Boston U v Matlock; Droylsden v Chorley; Guiseley v Hyde; Knowsley v Blyth; Leek v Winsford; Marine v Frickley; Witton v Emley. First division: Alfreton v GI Harwood; Curzon Ashton v Netherfield; Fleetwood v Bradford PA; Gretna v Harrogate T; Leigh v Congleton; Lincoln Utd v Atherton LR; Radcliffe v Worksop; Warrington v Eastwood T; Whitley Bay v Lancaster; Workington v Ashton Utd.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury v Didcot; Banbury v Abingdon United; Bicester v Cirencester; Endsleigh v Lambourn Sports; Kintbury v Tuffley; Shortwood v North Leigh

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Blakenall v Shifnal; Boldmere v Stapenhill; Chasetown v Rocester; Halesowen Harriers v West Midlands Police; Kynpersley Victoria v Oldbury; Stratford v Sandwell.

Bell's Scottish League

Premier division

(42) Falkirk v Partick
(43) Kilmarnock v Motherwell
(44) Raith v Aberdeen

First division

(45) Dumbarton v Clydebank
(46) Dundee Utd v Dundee
(47) Greenock Morton v St Mirren
(48) Hamilton v Airdrie
(49) St Johnstone v Dunfermline

Second division

(50) Berwick v Queen Of South
(51) Clyde v Stirling
(52) East Fife v Stenhousemuir
(53) Montrose v Forfar
(54) Stranraer v Ayr

Third division

(55) Alloa v East Stirling
(56) Arbroath v Brechin
(57) Livingston v Cowdenbeath
(58) Queen's Park v Albion
(-) Ross County v Caley This

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Dorchester; Burton v Worcester; Cambridge City v Stafford; Crawley v Ilkeston; Gloucester v Baldock; Gravesend and Northfleet v Rushden and Diamonds; Merthyr v Gresley; Newport AFC v Chelmsford; Salisbury v Halesowen; Sudbury Town v Cheltenham; VS Rugby v Hastings. Southern division: Ashford v Yate; Bashley v Forest Green; Braintree v Margate; Cinderford v Erith and Belvedere; Fareham v Trowbridge; Havant v Fisher 93; Newport IoW v Waterlooville; Sittingbourne v Clevedon; Tonbridge v Weymouth; Weston-super-Mare v Fleet; Witney v Poole. Midland division: Bilston v Solihull; Bury Town v Redditch; Corby v Bridgnorth; Evesham v Hinckley Town; Grantham v Sutton Coldfield; Moor Green v Bedworth; Nuneaton v Buckingham Town; Paget R v Dudley; RC Warwick v Tamworth; Rothwell v Leicester United; Stourbridge v King's Lynn.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Kingstonian; Chertsey v Boreham Wood; Dulwich v Carshalton; Enfield v Grays; Hayes v Hitchin; Hendon v Harrow; Purfleet v Yeovil; St Albans v Aylesbury; Sutton United v Molesey; Walton and Hersham v Bromley; Worthing v Yeading. First division: Abingdon Town v Berkhamsted; Aldershot Town v Marlow; Barton Rovers v Heybridge Swifts; Billericay v Basingstoke; Bognor Regis v Wembley; Chesham v Barking; Leyton Pennant v Wokingham; Ruislip Manor v Uxbridge; Staines v Oxford City; Thame v Maidenhead; Whyteleafe v Tooting and Mitcham. Second division: Egham v Croydon; Witham v Saffron Walden. Third division: Camberley v Wealdstone; Clapton v Tring; Hornchurch v East Thurrock; Lewes v Hertford; Southall v Cove

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Calne v Elmore; Crediton v Brislington; Frome v Westbury; Odd Down v Backwell; Tiverton v Bristol Manor Farm.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second round: Guisborough v Crook; Yorkshire Amateurs v West Auckland; Winterton v Northallerton, Brigg v Tow Law; Selby v Billingham; Shildon v Mossley; Hebburn v Ossett Albion; Chester-le-Street v Whickham; North Ferriby v Oldham; Durham v Whitby; Clitheroe v RTM Newcastle; Seaham Red Star v Peterlee Newtown; Dunston FB v Cammell Laird; Prudhoe v Goole; Easington Colliery v Ossett Town; Murton v Consett; Thackley v Bedlington Terriers; Nettleham v Pershore; Anstey Nomads v Shepshed Dynamos; Armitage v Rushall Olympic; Nuthall v Boldmere St Michael; Oakham v Lye; Raunds v Hinckley Athletic; Willenhall v Newcastle Town; Flixton v Hucknall; Belper v Bloxwich; Trafford v Darlaston; Maine Road v Eastwood Hanley; Pelsall Villa v Barwell; Northwood v Ely; Hampton v Ware; Brackley v Aveley; Diss v Herne Bay; Burgess Hill v Wootton BC; Collier Row v Woodbridge; Cheshunt v Bedford; Wisbech v Wivenhoe; Slade Green v Newmarket; Arlesey v Thamesmead; Metropolitan Police v Canvey Island; Furness v Sawbridgeworth; Harwich and Parkeston v Tilbury; Langford v Whitstable; Wroxham v Brentwood; Whitehawk v Corinthian; Burnham v Windsor and Eton; Gorleston v Fakenham; Peacehaven and Telscombe v Harlow; Hadleigh v Edgware; Leighton v Chalfont St Peter; Keynsham v Chard; Lymington v Warminster; Paulton v Bideford; Bridport v Bemerton Heath; Horsham v Falmouth; Torpoint v Eastleigh; Shoreham v Chichester; Dorking v Bishop Sutton; Godalming and Guildford v Mangotsfield; Wimborne v Torrington; Cranleigh v Banstead; Wick v Chippenham; Taunton v Bracknell.

EUROPEAN UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP: England v Sweden (at Kettering Town FC).

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Sandhurst, Cobham v Horley; Peppard v Chipstead; DCA Basingstoke v Merstham; Eton Wick v Bedfont; Feltham v Hartley Wintney; Netherne v Viking Sports, Reading v Ash; Raynes Park Vale v Farnham

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hatfield v Hoddesdon, Harpenden v Shillington; Letchworth v Milton Keynes; Ldn Colney v Royston; Potters Bar v Brache; Biggleswade v Welwyn

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Bowers v Ford United; Concord v Burnham Ramblers; Eton Manor v East Ham; Hullbridge Sports v Southend Manor; Maldon v Great Wakering; Romford v Basildon.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Woolwich; Beaconsfield SYCOB v Tottenham Omada; Brimsdown v Corinthian-Casuals; Brook House v Hanwell; Croydon v Cockfosters; Hillingdon v Amersham; Waltham Abbey v Tufnell Park; Willesden v St Margaretsbury.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Ferryhill v Stockton.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury v Crockenhill; Chatham v Ramsgate; Dartford v Tunbridge Wells; Deal v Faversham; Folkestone Invicta v Hythe; Greenwich v Beckenham; Sheppey v Cray.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Crowborough v Eastbourne Town; Langney Sports v Pagham; Mile Oak v Ringmer; Oakwood v Southwick; Portfield v Hailsham; Stamco v Hassocks. John O'Hara League Cup: Third round: Lancing v Arundel.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Gt Yarmouth v Halstead; Haverhill v Clacton; Lowestoft v Tiptree; March v Cornard; Soham v Sudbury Res; Stowmarket v Felixstowe; Watton v Sudbury Wands.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashfield v Maltby MW. Hatfield Main v Hallam; Liversedge v Pickering.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Aerostructures v Cowes Sports; BAT v Portsmouth RN; Christchurch v Totton; East Cowes v Andover; Gosport v Petersfield; Ryde Sports v Swanage and Herston; Thatcham v Brockenhurst; Whitchurch v Bournemouth.

LONDON OLD BOYS: Senior Cup: Old Hamptonians v Old Dorkinians; John Fisher v Glyn; Old Meadonians v Old Isleworthians; Old Tenisonians v Old Wokingians; Old Kingsburians v Old Wilsonians; Chertsey v Old Camdenians; Shene v William Fitt; Old Manorians v Old Tollingtonians; Enfield v Old Cholmeleians; Old Grocers v Old Chigwellians; Old Buckwellians v Old Reigatians; Old Foresters v Old Malvernians

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill v Tividale; Cradley v Ludlow; Gornal Wednesfield; Malvern v Stourport; Westfields v Bloxwich

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Ignatians v Cardinal Manning OB; Old Aloysians v Clapham

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Coleshill v Studley BKL; Meir KA v Highgate; Knowle v Kings Heath; Northfield v Upton; Southam v Handrahan Timbers; West Midlands Fire Service v Shirley.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: NatWest Bank v Kew Association; West Wickham v Carshalton; Winchmore Hill v Old Actonians; Norsemen v Old Esthameians; Crouch End Vampires v South Bank Poly; Civil Service v East Barnet OG; Polytechnic Reserves v Old Stationers; Old Parkonians v Old Lyonians; Alexandra Park v Lloyds Bank; Old Bromleians v Barclays Bank; Midland Bank v Old Latymerians; Old Westminster Citizens v Alleyn Old Boys; Ibis v Old Salesians; Brentham v Broomfield; Southgate Olympic v Reigate Priory.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Old Grammarians v Nottsborough; St Marys Coll v Hale End, Albanian v Witan. Senior two: Corinthian-Cas v Mill Hill Village; Hon Artillery Co v City of London; Old Bealonians v Ealing Association; Old Finchleians v UCL Acads; Old Woodhouseians v Wandsworth. Senior three: BBC v Old Farnleians; London Welsh v Fulham Compton OB; Old Monovians v Duncombe Sp. Senior four: Bourneside v Brent; Cardinal Pole v Inland Revenue; Economicals v NSY Comets; London Airways v Old Colleians; Mayfield v Centymca.

FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Preston v Huddersfield. Second round: Liverpool v Bradford.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Cannock v Surbiton (Morris Ground, 2.30). Canterbury v Teddington (Polo Farm, 12.0); East Grinstead v Bournville (Saint Hill, 2.0); Guildford v Barford Tigers (Kings Manor School, 12.30); Havant v Hounslow (Havant College, 2.30); Hull v Southgate (Orchard Park, 2.0); Indian Gymkhana v St Albans (Osterley, 2.0); Old Loughtonians v Reading (Chigwell, 1.30); Stourport v Trojans (Kidderminster School, 2.0). Second division: City of Portsmouth v Brooklands (Alexandra Park, 1.30); Doncaster v Isca (Bennetthorpe, 2.0); Edgbaston v Firebrands (Birmingham University, 12.30); Gloucester City v Olton and West Warwicks (Plock Court, 1.45), Harleston Magpies v Bromley (Shotford Heath, 12.30), Oxford University v Beeston (St Edward's School, 2.30); Richmond v Crostyx (Teddington School, 2.0); Sheffield v Blueharts (Abbeydale Park, 2.0), Slough v Hampstead and Westminster (Wexham School, 2.0)

SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE: First division: Cheltenham v Bristol; Swansea v Robinsons; Taunton Vale v Plymouth; Weston-super-Mare v Bath Buccs, Whitchurch v Exeter University.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Harborne; Bloxwich v Bridgnorth; Loughborough Students v Khalsa, North Notts v John Player, Nottingham v Hampton in Arden

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Woking, Beckenham v Anchorians; Bournemouth v Wokingham; Fareham v Gore Court, Lewes v Wimbledon. Lions v High Wycombe; Maidenhead v Spencer; Old Walcountians v Chichester; Oxford Hawks v Old Kingstonians; Winchester v Newbury. Middlesex/Berks, Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v Hendon, Bracknell v Eastcote; City Of Oxford v Marlow; ETESSA v Hayes; Headington v Harrow; Old Merchant Taylors' v PHC Chiswick; Ramgarhia v NPL; Richings Park v Milton Keynes; Staines v HCC, Sunbury v Mill Hill. Kent/Sussex: Belvedere v Old Williamsonians; Bexleyheath v Worthing; Bexley Invicta v Old Beccehamians; Blackheath v Tulse Hill; Bognor v Old Bordenians; Brighton v Tunbridge Wells, Crawley v Sevenoaks, Herne Bay v Mid Sussex; Marden Russets v Horsham; Middleton v Old Holcombeians. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Solent HC; Camberley v Epsom, Cheam v Old Mid Whitgiftians; Dulwich v Oxshott, London Univ v Southampton; Old Cranleighans v Basingstoke; Old Edwardians v Purley; Old Whitgiftians v Walton and Weybridge, Oxted v Andover; Petersfield v Blandford

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bedford Town v Bishop's Stortford, Chelmsford v Redbridge and Ilford; Colchester v Bury St Edmunds; Ipswich v Cambridge City; Peterborough Town v Cambridge University. Premier division B: Dereham v Clacton; Norwich City v Ipswich and East Suffolk; Old Southendian v Sudbury; Romford v Luton Town, Stevenage v Westcliff.

RUGBY UNION

International matches

England v South Africa (2.30)
(at Twickenham)
Ireland v Fiji
(at Lansdowne Road)
Scotland v Western Samoa (2.30)
(at Murrayfield)

CIS County Championship

Northern Group
Durham v Cumbria (2.15)
(at Gateshead Fell)
Northumberland v Cheshire (2.15)
(at Northern)

Heineken League

First division

Abertillery v Aberavon (2.30)
Bridgend v Treorchy (2.30)
Neath v Swansea (2.30)
Newbridge v Cardiff (2.30)
Newport v Ebbw Vale (2.30)
Pontypridd v Llanelli (2.30)

Second division

Bonymaen v Cross Keys (2.30)
Dunvant v Ystradgynlais (2.30)
Llandovery v Llanharan (2.30)
Pontypool v Abercynon (2.30)
South Wales Police v Maesteg (2.30)
Tenby Utd v Caerphilly (2.30)

SWALEC CUP: Third round: Aberavon Quins v Oakdale; Abergavenny v Llantrisant; Bargoed v Tumble. Blaina v Narberth; Cefn Cribbwr v Aberdare; Cowbridge v Usk; Cwmgwrach v Fleur De Lys; Garndiffaith v Llandaff North, Glamorgan Wanderers v Blaengarw; Hendy v Bedwas; Kenfig Hill v Resolven; Llangennech v Cwmavon; Llantwit Fardre v Heol-Y-Cyw; Maesteg Celtic v Baglan; Merthyr v Aberystwyth; Nelson v Tondu; Newcastle Emlyn v Pontycymmer; Penarth v Felinfoel; Pontyberem v Talywain; Pontypool United v Abercrave, Rhiwbina v Cardigan; Ruthin v Gilfach Goch; St Peters v Glynneath; Talbach v Carmarthen Quins; Tonmawr v Croesyceiliog; Treherbert v Kidwelly; Trimsaran v Newport Saracens; Vardre v Pwllheli; Waunarlwydd v Rhymney; Whitland v Pyle; Wrexham v Rumney; Ynysddu v Pembroke; Ystrad Rhondda v Tredegar.

UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Durham v Cumbria (at Ryton, 2.15), Northumberland v Cheshire (at Novocastrians, 2.30)

SUN ALLIANCE COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-finals: Yorkshire v East Midlands (at Bradford and Bingley, 2.0); Somerset v Kent (at Taunton, 2.0).

Club matches

Barking v Sidcup (2 30)
Bath v Coventry
Berry Hill v Sherborne (2.30)
Birmingham Solihull v Exeter (2 15)
Bristol v Northampton (12.30)
Camborne v Taunton (2.30)
Fylde v Leeds (12.30)
Gloucester v Bedford
Harrogate v Driffield (2.15)
Havant v Reading (12 30)
Henley v Banbury (2 30)
High Wycombe v Basingstoke (10.30)
Kendal v Sale (2 30)
Lichfield v Leamington (2.30)
London Welsh v Saracens (11 45)
Lydney v Broad Street (12.30)
Moseley v Rosslyn Park (12.15)
Nottingham v Morley
Nuneaton v Bradford and Bingley (2 30)
Otley v Huddersfield (2.15)
Preston Grasshoppers v Rugby (2.15)
Richmond v Blackheath (11 0)
Sandal v Camp Hill (2.15)
Sheffield v Liverpool St Helens (2.30)
St Ives v Redruth (2.30)
Torquay v Plymouth (2 30)
Wakefield v West Hartlepool (2.30)
Walsall v Derby (2.15)
Waterloo v Broughton Park (2 15)
Wharfedale v Alnwick (2.30)
Winnington Park v Lymm (2 30)

Cancelled: Newcastle v Middlesbrough.

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill v Hemel Hempstead; Lock Lane v West Hull; Millom v Egremont

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff v Durham (6 15); Fife v Slough (7.15); Milton Keynes v Newcastle (6.30); Nottingham v Humberside (6.30). First division: Bracknell v Murrayfield (6 0); Dumfries v Swindon (7.30), Medway v Paisley (6 0), Peterborough v Guildford (5 30); Telford v Manchester (7 30)

VOLLEYBALL

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Tooting Aquila v Manchester Utd Salford; Sheffield v Liverpool City; Wessex v Whitefield; Solent v Warwick Riga; Polonia Ealing v Newcastle, Team Mizuno Lewsham v Aquila Leeds

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Loughborough v Reebok Liverpool C; Wessex v Sheffield Weds

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: European team championships (Jersey)
BOXING: WBO light-flyweight championship: Paul Weir (Scot, holder) v Baby Jake Matlala (SA) (Kelvin Hall, Glasgow)
CYCLING: Eastway SL cyclo-cross (Stratford, London, 1.30)
SNOOKER: Royal Liver Assurance UK Championship (Guild Hall, Preston).
SWIMMING: Grand Prix meet (Leicester).

TOMORROW

Kick-off 3.00 unless stated

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership
Queens Park Rangers v Coventry (4.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
Leicester v Tranmere
Norwich v Ipswich
Southend v Crystal Palace (2.55)

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Hearts v Hibernian (1.00)
Rangers v Celtic

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Derry v Shelbourne (3.15); UCD v Galway (3.15).

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Third round: Swindon Spitfires v Southampton Saints.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Bronte v Notts County; Langford v RTM Newcastle; Tranmere v Huddersfield. Southern division: Brentford v Ipswich; Three Bridges v Berkhamsted; Town and County v Leyton Orient; Wimbledon v Brighton and Hove.

RUGBY UNION

CIS Insurance divisional championship
Midland v London (2.30)
(at Northampton)
South West v Northern (2.15)
(at Bridgwater)

County Championship
Northern Group
Lancashire v Yorkshire (2.15)
(at Waterloo)

Midlands Pool One
Leicestershire v Warwickshire (2.30)
(at Syston)

Representative match
Cornwall v Chief Constable's XV (2.30)
(at Penzance & Newlyn)

UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Northern Group: Lancashire v Yorkshire (Widnes, 2.15). South-West: Pool one: Dorset and Wilts v Oxfordshire (North Dorset, 2 30). Pool two: Devon v Cornwall (Devonport Services, 2 30); Gloucestershire v Somerset (Cheltenham, 2 30). South-East: Pool one: Eastern Counties v Middlesex (Barking, 2.15); Kent v Hampshire (Westcombe Park, 2 30). Pool Two: Hertfordshire v Army (Old Verulamians, 2.30); Surrey v Sussex (Cobham, 2 15)

SUN ALLIANCE COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-finals: North Midlands v Hertfordshire (Moseley, 2.00); Cheshire v Gloucestershire (Winnington Park, 1.00).

WOMEN'S DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: London v North; South v Midlands.

Tennents Premiership
First division
Hawick v Edinburgh Acads (2.00)
Heriot's FP v Stirling County (2.00) P
Watsonians v Boroughmuir (2.00)

Second division
Glasgow H K v Dundee HSFP (2.00)
Jed-Forest v Selkirk (2.00)
Stewart's Melville FP v Currie (2.00)
West of Scotland v Kelso (2.00)

Third division
Biggar v Glasgow Acads (2.00)
Musselburgh v Grangemouth (2.00)
Peebles v Kirkcaldy (2.00)
Preston Lodge v Corstorphine (2.00)

Fourth division
Ayr v Edinburgh Wndrs (2.00)
Kilmarnock v Glasgow Southern (2.00)
Langholm v Haddington (2.00)
Wigtownshire v Gordonians (2.00)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Championship
Leeds v Sheffield
London Broncos v Warrington (2.30)
(at Stoop Memorial Ground)
Oldham v Castleford
Wigan v Workington

First division
Batley v Rochdale (3.15)
Dewsbury v Widnes
Featherstone v Hull (3.30)
Keighley v Huddersfield (3.15)
Whitehaven v Wakefield (3.30)

Second divison
Carlisle v Chorley (2.00)
Doncaster v York
Hull KR v Barrow (3.15)
Hunslet v Leigh (3.30)
Swinton v Highfield

HOCKEY

HA CUP: Third round: Barford Tigers v Canterbury (Holyhead LC, 1.00); Bloxwich v Firebrands (Burtonwood LC, 1.45); Bournemouth v Reading (Chapel Gate, 1.30); Bournville v Norton (Birmingham University, 1.30), Bromley v Weston-super-Mare (Priory LC, 1.30); Cannock v Sheffield (Morris Ground, 1.45); Chichester v Crostyx (Kingsham Field, 1.30); Dereham v Teddington (Greenfields Road, 1.30), Doncaster v Bluharts (Bennetthorpe, 1.30), East Grinstead v Shrewsbury (Saint Hill, 2 00); Edgbaston v Ramgarhai (Birmingham University, 12.00); Formby v Sheffield Bankers (Cricket Path, 1.30); Guildford v Harleston (Kings Manor School, 12.00); Hampstead and Westminster v Lewes (Sir John Orwell Centre, Wapping, 2.30); Harborne v Warrington (Hadley Stadium, 1 45); Havant v Stourport (Havant College, 1.30); Indian Gymkhana v Harrogate (Osterley, 2.30); Ipswich v Southgate (Tuddenham Road, 12.45); Isca v Beeston (Exeter School, 1.00); Khalsa v Tunbridge Wells (Warwick University, 1.30); Maidenhead v Surbiton (Altwood School, 2.00); Nottingham v Slough (Goosedale, 12.30); Old Loughtonians v Colchester (Chigwell, 1.30); Olton v Robinsons (Grange Road, 1 30); Oxford Hawks v Brooklands (Banbury Road, 1.30), Oxford University v City of Portsmouth (St Edwards School, 2.00); Redbridge v Richmond (Ashton Playing Fields, 12.15); St Albans v Hull (Clarence Park, 1.00); Timperley v Hounslow (Stockport Road, 1.30); Trojans v Ashford (Stoneham Lane, 1.30), Winchester v Gloucester (Penns School, 12 45); Woking v Wimbledon (Goldsmith Park, 2.00)

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Durham v Slough (6.30); Humberside v Basingstoke (5 45); Newcastle v Fife (6 30). First division: Billingham v Dumfries (5.15); Blackburn v Murrayfield (6 00); Bracknell v Chelmsford (5 15); Guildford v Paisley (5.15); Manchester v Swindon (6 00); Medway v Peterborough (5.15); Solihull v Telford (7.00)

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Leeds; Wessex v Salford; London Malory v Guildford; Britannia Music City v Sheffield Wednesday.

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: British Universities track championships (Manchester, 9 00)

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Saturday portrait: Joost van der Westhuizen, by Simon Barnes

An explosive cocktail of heady talent and cold-eyed turbulence

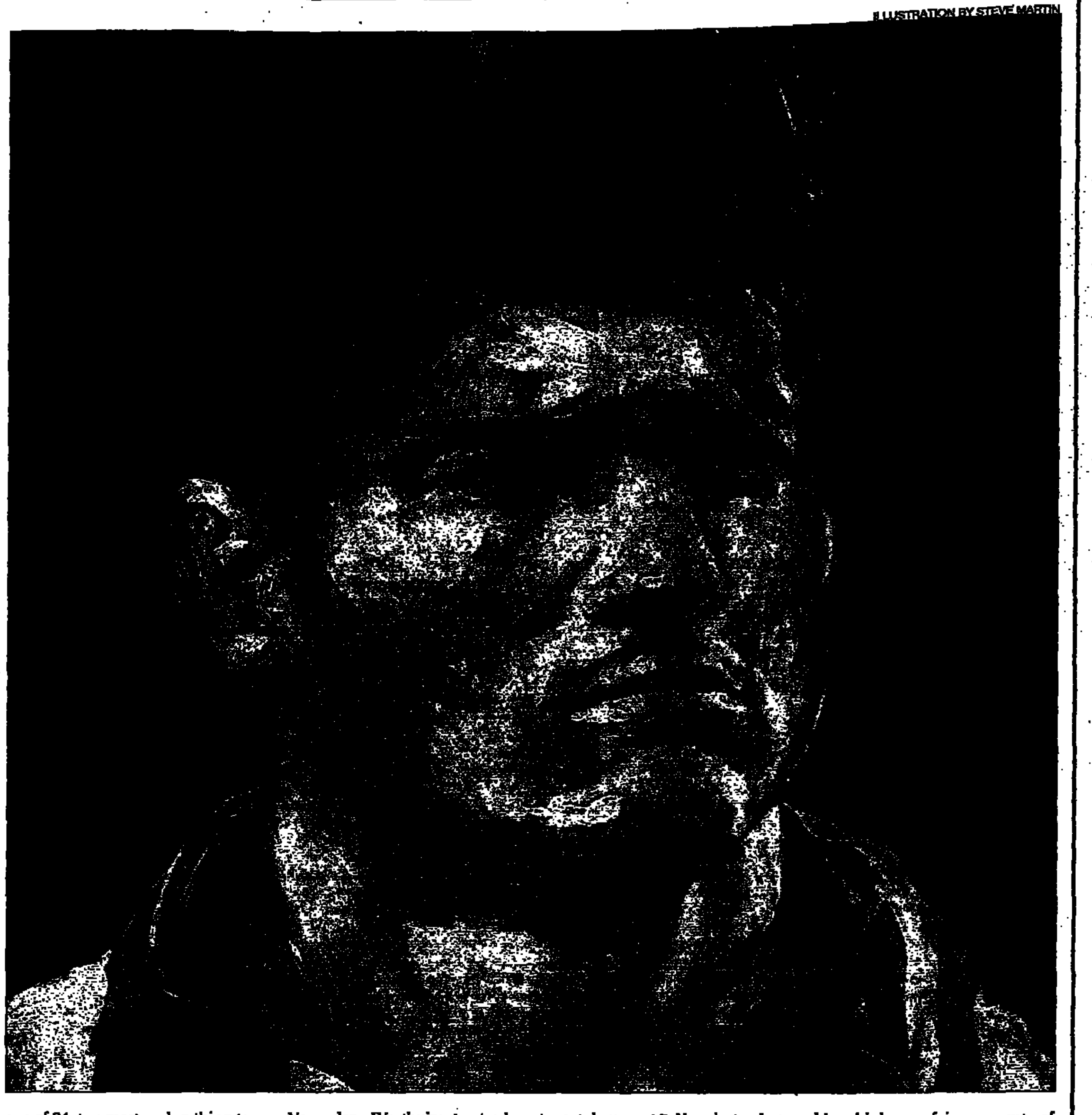


ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

There was a moment when it almost all went very badly wrong, and it centred on the troublesome, troubling, trouble-prone figure with the not untroublesome name of Joost Heystek van der Westhuizen. “Rhymes wuth brazen,” my colleague, Gerald Davies, said with uncharacteristic tartness.

Of course, the good ended happily and the bad unhappily. No doubt about it, the sporting image of the year was Nelson Mandela at the rugby union World Cup final, wearing his Springbok rugby jersey. It was like Martin Luther King wearing a Ku Klux Klan outfit: the symbol of division turned into the most powerful possible expression of unity. Forgiveness, a new dawn, and victory to boot as South Africa beat New Zealand to take the World Cup. What a mixture. And Van der Westhuizen was there, and played his part.

Van der Westhuizen comes from the Boer heartland, the Northern Transvaal, the place where the most recalcitrant of the Voortrekkers ended up. He comes from a people steeped in prejudice, whom it is hard for the world to regard without prejudice. Hence the dreadful row that came close to derailing the South African dream machine during the World Cup.

It happened during the wild, fraught and emotional quarter-final match against Western Samoa. Western Samoa, with their love of the Big Hit, the teeth-rattling challenge on the very cusp of legality, are opponents who can rattle anyone. There, snarling around the pack and out of his mind on adrenalin, was the South Africa scrum half, Van der Westhuizen. So often, the scrum half is the stormy petrel of rugby. In a tense and often violent game, one South Africa won by a deceptively wide margin of 42-14, Van der Westhuizen was always there “in the many-legged heart of things”, as Kipling has it.

Trouble followed trouble with the post-match press conference. Pat Lam, the Western Samoa captain, was asked directly if Van der Westhuizen had made racist comments during the match, and if it was true that he had been bitten by Van der Westhuizen.

Tricky one, that. Lam looked at Bryan Williams, the Western Samoa technical adviser, looked away, looked back, looked away again. Then he came up with a remark that quivered the length and breadth of the little world of rugby union. “No comment,” he said. That, one commentator said, was the Silence of the Lam.

Deafening enough. Naturally, a couple of days later, the South Africans had a damage-limitation press conference of their own, in which they denied everything and more. Van der Westhuizen said all the right things. He was utterly, utterly committed to the new South Africa, and Chester Williams, the only non-white player in the squad, was one of his bestest, bestest pals.

> **‘His eyes do not blink. They are designed for extremes of emotion, not equanimity’**

But the odour lingered, and it took Mandela and a glorious final to disperse it. Van der Westhuizen remains at the fulcrum of his team, and he will be, as ever, at the centre of the storm when South Africa play England at Twickenham this afternoon.

He has a reputation for sledging even when race is not an issue. He is known for such unattractive traits as the sarcastic applause of stricken opponents, and for occasional dying-swan performances. His penalty-earning collapse, followed by the instant arise-Lazarus miracle, was seen by some as the turning point of that notorious Western Samoa match.

“Fancies himself a bit of a film star.” “Never trust a bloke with eyes like that.” “Yes, eyes — and an attitude.” So it was comprehensively forewarned that I sought out Van der Westhuizen on a squally night in the West End of London. And, of course, he was 40 minutes late and full of regrets for this *faux pas* which probably did not prevent him from sleeping that night.

The eyes *are* pretty startling, even in a hotel bar where the lights are turned low enough to make any bill unreadable. They do not seem to blink often enough. Or at all. Eyes, one feels, that are designed for extremes of emotion: not too good at equanimity.

And so, almost at once, eyes blazing, we are back in the middle of the greatest day in the history of the earth. “To see Nelson Mandela in a South African rugby shirt was great. He showed us at that crucial moment that the whole country was behind us. The *whole* country. It was wonderful. We all have so much respect for him, and I knew then that we would win.”

Excuse me, Joost, but I am supposed to be looking for a bigot. “I love the coaching clinics we take to the townships. We do them as a regular part of our work with the South African Rugby Football Union. That really means a lot to us. It seems then we really are doing something that matters. Something that no one else could have done.”

Van der Westhuizen grew up in Pretoria, but spent much of his boyhood on his grandfather's farm. “When I was there I spent all my time playing with black kids. Playing games all day, playing in the river all day.”

He was brought up in the toughest Afrikaner good-behaviour-or-else tradition. And not, he tells you, eyes blazing at you, racist at all. “No. Not at all. Certainly not. My mother always taught me that you must treat everyone as you would wish to be treated yourself. Everyone.”

He talked more about Mandela, and the ending of apartheid: “The best thing that has ever happened to South Africa.” It needs no ghost from the grave to tell us that, but this understanding of things seems crucial, not just to Van der Westhuizen, but to the entire rugby team. The game of the Boer heartland as a force for unity and right: perhaps the most bizarre turnaround in the history of sport. It is unfair to any athlete, let alone one of 24, to expect such a thing to be easy.

Van der Westhuizen is a player of rich talent, whose talent springs from his own turbulent nature. Dewi Morris, the former England scrum half, praised his dramatic change of pace. Cliff Morgan, the former Wales stand-off half, said that this was the type of player he would have loved to play behind. “Takes the attention off you, you see. Gives you room to work in.”

Van der Westhuizen's trade mark is the sudden, dashing, high-speed burst from behind the scrum. “I used to try and do too much on my own,” he said. “And I was rightly dropped for it.”

Morris, who played against him in an overwhelming defeat of South Africa, said: “He didn't get the chance to do anything that day. We put *him* under pressure, and he didn't like it. Coping with pressure — that is what he needed to get better at.” Yes, but what about the sledging? “I think we did all the sledging that day.”

Van der Westhuizen cannot play a game without going into a mad frenzy of competitiveness. “Look, most of the time I'm a pretty quiet guy. But when I am in a match and the adrenalin switches on, then for the 80 minutes I am out there, I am going out there to *win*. That's how I am.”

Van der Westhuizen unquestionably thinks a fair amount of himself. But his greatest pride comes from being part of a team. *The* team. The one that took South Africa into a new dawn. “Since isolation, everything has changed. Provincial rugby was all we had, and we would kill each other to win. Now we are a single team, and we would very nearly die for each other.” I could have said: “Look, Joost, it's only a game.” But I didn't. Because it isn't.

Graf leaves rival trailing in wake

THE Steffi Graf who is waltzing through the early rounds at the WTA Tour championships in New York is a completely different person to the one who entered the US Open two months ago unsure whether she could win the tournament, having played — and lost — only one match since Wimbledon (Alix Ramsay writes).

On Thursday night, she moved into the semi-finals with a comfortable 6-3, 6-4 win over Mary Joe Fernandez. As in their 12 previous encounters, Fernandez was playing flat out just to keep pace with Graf's wake. It was hardly a surprise, then, to learn that Graf felt she could win the tournament. Compared with how she felt before the US Open, life was looking a lot better. “I'm feeling healthier, more happy with myself and just in general,” she said. “I think I have a different attitude than I had then. Maybe I'm a little more cocky.”

Graf is enjoying a quiet week in New York. Able to go home to her Manhattan apartment every night, she feels comfortable and relaxed. Her only concern is her semi-final opponent — either Natasha Zvereva or Gabriela Sabatini.

THE OLD SMITHY AT BATCHWORTH

MANY THINGS HAVE GONE FOR A BURTON THESE DAYS — BUT THANKFULLY NOT IN BURTON. MARSTON'S PEDIGREE REMAINS THE GOLDEN PINT IT WAS IN GOOD OLD JOHN MARSTON'S DAY, BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY BEER STILL BREWED IN WOODEN CASKS.
[illegible] ARE WHAT THEY USED TO BE

MARSTON'S
Pedigree

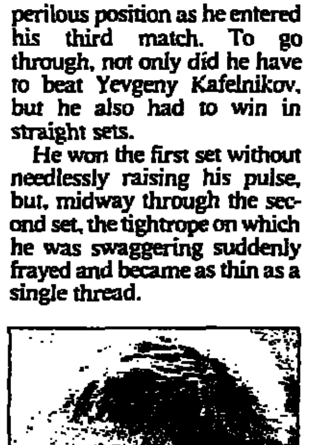
Becker swaggers through adversity

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN FRANKFURT

TAKING bravado to the ultimate limit, Boris Becker tantalised his Russian opponent, the adoring German public and the organisers of the Association of Tennis Professionals championship finals before confirming his place in the semi-finals here yesterday. He managed it with no more than a centimetre to spare.

The tangled complexities of the controversial round-robin system, which he was later to criticise, had left him in a perilous position as he entered his third match. To go through, not only did he have to beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov, but he also had to win in straight sets.

He won the first set without needlessly raising his pulse, but, midway through the second set, the tightrope on which he was swaggering suddenly frayed and became as thin as a single thread.



Becker: on a tightrope

Six times he was effectively teetering on the edge of dropping out of contention. Like a matador arrogantly turning his back on a snorting bull, Becker relishes danger. In a crisis, he bristles with positive intent. He calls it his trademark. Yet, even by his haughty standards, the manner in which he regularly escaped from instant elimination was astounding.

Kafelnikov had failed to hold his own serve only once, in the fifth game of the opening set, when he posed a sustained threat to Becker's survival at 3-3 in the second. On four occasions, during a game which stretched to six deuces, he had a point to deliver a potentially crucial blow. Becker protected himself, once through a rally of 17 increasingly anxious strokes, before finding himself in even greater jeopardy at 4-4 and 15-40.

Kafelnikov apparently required only one more point to all but usher his friend, the South African, Wayne Ferreira, into the semi-finals, but he was given no chance to provide the favour.

Astonishingly, under the circumstances, Becker struck three thunderous aces — not once but twice with second serves timed at 113 mph.

“Sometimes they go in, sometimes I double fault,” he explained soberly of his high-risk policy. “I take chances. It is part of my character.”

The heavily-partisan spectators, in turn suspended in silent apprehension and releasing their relief during his prolonged plight, loved him for it, and he was roared home 6-4, 7-5.

Success allowed Becker to avoid the fate which befell him four years ago when, just as this year, he had no margin for error in the last of his round-robin matches. Although he beat Pete Sampras, he lost the second set and, consequently, his place in the tournament.

He suggested that the format should be straightforward. “If you lose, you go home,” as he put it bluntly. “I would prefer to play as we do for the rest of the year.”

Jim Courier is already on his way back to the United States, beaten 6-2, 7-5 by his compatriot, Michael Chang. Their match was contrastingly devoid of tension, lustre, and colour. Like Kafelnikov, Courier is preparing for the Davis Cup final in a fortnight, but he does not yet know whether Andre Agassi will be fit enough to compete in Moscow.

Chang will today take on another American, Sampras, in one semi-final. In the other, Becker, with the whole of the *Festhalle* behind him again, will meet Thomas Enqvist.

RESULTS: Red group: M Chang (US) bt J Courier (US) 6-2, 7-5. White group: B Becker (Ger) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 6-4, 7-5

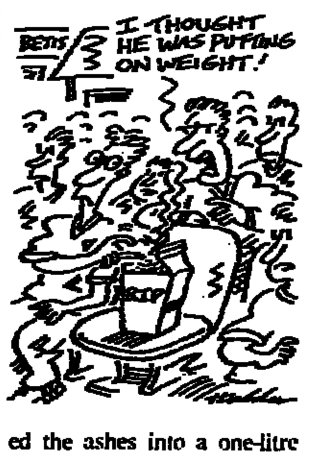
Real fanaticism remains alive and well in Spain

SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

DEATH, where is thy victory? Grave, where is thy sting? These are the questions they are asking on the terraces at Real Betis football club in Spain. Their most loyal supporter is dead, but that does not stop him going to every home game. His son takes his ashes to matches in a used milk carton.

The man — the name of this single-minded family has been witheld by the club — died last year, but that did not stop his son renewing his father's membership, which entitles him to a seat for every game at the Benito Villamarín Stadium. It has not all been straightforward, though. Initially, the son took the ashes in a glass container. This went on for several weeks, but then security men — what is the Spanish for jobsworth? — got nervous. They said the container was a dangerous object, and was not allowed in the ground after all.

Being a man of boundless improvisation, the son decanted the ashes into a one-litre milk carton. This shrewd decision met at once with the approval of the forces of law and order. So now the father sits enthroned on his own seat, inside his milk carton, while mighty Betis strut their stuff. Death, be not proud!



BETIS
I THOUGHT HE WAS PUTTING ON WEIGHT!

Sine die

Meanwhile, a footballer named Luigi Coluccio has just received a one-match ban — even though he is dead, too. Coluccio played for Gioiosa Jonica, who play in the amateur league of Calabria. He had the misfortune to be sent off in a match against Bocale. Shortly after this, the poor fellow was murdered. Three days later, the football authorities handed out their suspension.

Says who?

Who said it? 1. “Being the manager of a touring team is rather like being in charge of a cemetery. Lots of people underneath you, but no one listening.” 2. “Going down, going down, going down.” 3. “I can't believe that he [Jeff Tarango] did that. And at Wimbledon, of all places!” 4. “I work hard for my money. I wouldn't put it on a racehorse.” 5. “He [Shane Warne] didn't look like he was going to get a wicket every ball, so maybe the English are improving.” Answers below.

Hate list

The Magic Numbers have begun to flood in, and soon the magic Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte will be flooding out. More suggestions please, the best to be rewarded with a bottle of bubbling bliss. More examples: 9, for Devon Malcolm, Michael Schumacher and Nigel Mansell, but not 10 for Schumacher, since he failed to break Mansell's record when he lost the last grand prix of the season.

Talking of which, Schumacher has another victory to his credit: yes, he is No 1 in *GQ* magazine's annual list of “Sixty Men We Love to Loathe”. Sport has had a great year: other luminaries on the list are Imran Khan (2nd), O.J. Simpson (14th), Pete Sampras (39th), John Fashanu (40th), Julian Dicks (41st), John McCririck (44th) and Will Carling (56th).

Indiana clones?

All right, concentrate. The Oakland Raiders left Oakland to become the Los Angeles Raiders, and then they left Los Angeles to become the Oakland Raiders again. Meanwhile, the Baltimore Colts became the Indianapolis Colts. Alas, poor Baltimore. But now the Cleveland Browns are moving to Baltimore to become, yes, the Baltimore Browns. Latest I hear, the Chicago Bears are being tempted by the promise of a stadium, costing half a billion bucks, to move to Indiana, perhaps the least glamorous state in the union. That has prompted the city of Chicago to counter-tempt the Bears with an offer of: a) a $150 million revamp of Soldier Field, and b) not having to go to Indiana. It all makes perfect sense, really.

Golden boy

The attendance of football matches by monuments is clearly one of the themes of this week's column. A group of Fiorentina supporters have created a golden statue of their main man, Gabriel Batistuta. The statue stands on a pedestal. “We want something special. We Florentines are never satisfied,” one of their number, a fellow known as Dimitri, declared. The pedestal bears a poem written for the occasion:

A warrior, never defeated
Hard in battle
Loyal in spirit

They hope that the statue will be in a fit state to attend matches until 2000. Why do it at all? “It was enough for us to see ten seconds of happiness in the eyes of our chapmpion.” No, you can't take this statue of Julian Dicks into the ground, it's more than my job's worth . . .

Says who

Answer to quotes: 1. Wes Hall. 2. Crystal Palace supporters outside the court where Eric Cantona was being tried for kicking one of their number. 3. John McEnroe. 4. Frankie Dettori. 5. Mark Waugh. All these from the latest edition of *The Radio 5 Live Sports Yearbook 1996*.

هكذا من الاصل

مكبرا من الاصل

World champions provide stern test for side setting out in new direction

Catt must carry England forward

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MORE than two million submissions from the public have been received for South Africa's draft constitution. Cyril Ramaphosa, the chairman of his country's Constitutional Assembly, told a distinguished gathering at South Africa House in London earlier this week. One of them called optimistically for the enshrining of the World Cup triumph last June as some kind of national treasure.

Would that success in sport could be so easily insured. For now it is enough that South Africa are playing England today in two of the world's great team sports, rugby union and cricket. For the rugby players at Twickenham this afternoon, it is the end of an illustrious but lengthy season.

A second meeting with England within the next seven months was discounted yesterday. South African officials cannot see a space in which to accommodate England's desire for an end-of-season game against southern-hemisphere opposition. "I don't know where they're going to find a free Saturday," Edward Griffiths, the South African Rugby Football Union chief executive, said. "Our programme is completely full."

England, therefore, must make this one count: all week they have touted their visitors as favourites, with good cause. South Africa are the world champions, their will to win is legendary, their expertise in the decision-making areas proven under fire. Their record since their tour last year to New Zealand speaks for itself: unbeaten in 14 internationals.

Or does it? All but four of those 14 games have been played at home — the exceptions are the drawn match in Auckland which began the run, the games last season with Scotland and Wales and the fixture on Sunday against Italy in Rome. That their rugby team has become part of a nation-building exercise is not in doubt but the nation is not at Twickenham today.

"A great team is one that can play well away from home," Kitch Christie, the coach, said. "That's where the Kiwis are outstanding and it's something we have to learn to do."

Jonathan Callard, recalled at full back, gets in some kicking practice at the new-look Twickenham yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Under Christie's guidance. South Africa have built on the process begun earlier in the year in New Zealand: several of the wet-weather experts who toured Britain last autumn return — Tommie Laubscher, the all-rounder Joel Stransky and Rudolf Straeuli, who must be content to sit among the replacements.

Now they face an England team of unproven pedigree but one with a well-deserved reputation for rising to the occasion in a completed stadium which holds, at 75,000, more spectators than even the concrete edifices at South Africa's international match venues.

England's public, paying record receipts of £2.1 million, flock to Twickenham in the hope not only of seeing the world champions beaten but their own players offering the running game of which they have talked but seldom achieved. For all the mutual expressions of respect, however, both sides know that, if Mike Catt fails to function at stand-off half, English prospects are limited.

Over the past five years and 43 internationals, England have enjoyed — whatever his critics may say — the services of Rob Andrew 40 times, and now a huge weight of responsibility falls on Catt. Will Carling tried to deflect some of that burden by referring to those other, ball-winning areas of the team which must be satisfactory if Catt is to prosper. But, with his selection, England have burned their boats: they admit their set pieces are unlikely to dominate, they hope their back row is mobile enough to cover the ground, they must trust to Catt's footballing instincts.

He, in turn, must hope that Kyran Bracken can recover the form which made him so bright a prospect when he made his debut two years ago. Bracken has played at scrum half this season like a man with a load on his mind, a burden to which the presence of Joost van der Westhuizen can only add.

Not that Van der Westhuizen has scintillated recently in Northern Transvaal colours the way he did during the World Cup, but his speed and resource, coupled with Stransky's considerable organisational skills, give South Africa a proven hinge. If Andy Robinson can snap the hinge on his return to the international game, all things are possible; if not, England may have to hope for development from their restructured team rather than victory.

TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM

ENGLAND		SOUTH AFRICA
J E B Callard (Bath)	15	A J Joubert (Natal)
D P Hopley (Wasps)	14	J Olivier (Northern Transvaal)
W D C Carling (Harlequins, capt)	13	J C Mulder (Transvaal)
J C Guscott (Bath)	12	H P le Roux (Transvaal)
R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)	11	C M Williams (W Province)
M J Catt (Bath)	10	J T Stransky (W Province)
K P P Bracken (Bristol)	9	J H van der Westhuizen (N Tvl)
J Leonard (Harlequins)	1	T G Laubscher (W Province)
M P Regan (Bristol)	2	J Dalton (Transvaal)
V E Ubogu (Bath)	3	A van der Linde (W Province)
T A K Rodber (N'thampton/Army)	6	R J Kruger (N Transvaal)
M O Johnson (Leicester)	4	J J Wiese (Transvaal)
M C Bayfield (Northampton)	5	M G Andrews (Natal)
R A Robinson (Bath)	7	F J van Heerden (W Province)
B B Clarke (Bath)	8	J F Pienaar (Transvaal, capt)

Referee: J M Fleming (Scotland).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 D PearsREPLACEMENTS: 16 J T Small (Harlequins), 17 M J S Dawson(Natal), 17 H W Honiball (Natal), 18 J (Northampton). 18 P R de GlanvilleP Roux (Transvaal), 19 R A W (Bath). 19 G C Rowntree (Leicester),Straeuli (Transvaal), 20 W Meyer 20 R G R Dawe (Bath), 21 L B N(Eastern Province), 21 C le C Dallaglio (Wasps) Rossouw (Transvaal)

Reshaped Scotland herald new era in open style

By Mark Souster

MUCH has changed in rugby union since Scotland walked off Loftus Versfeld in Pretoria on a balmy June night, their World Cup hopes shredded by New Zealand. When the Scots take the field this afternoon against Western Samoa, they will do so with a side showing seven changes from that night: missing will be the retired Gavin Hastings, Kenny Milne and Iain Morrison, for years the backbone of the team.

Of greater significance, for posterity if nothing else, is the fact they will also become the first in Scottish history to be paid for playing the game. Although contracts have still to be signed with the Scottish Rugby Union, the players will retrospectively receive a retainer, match fee and — if all goes well — a win bonus worth in excess of £8,000.

Money, though, as Jim Telfer, the chairman of selectors, stressed yesterday will not be a motivation. Financial rewards will certainly be irrelevant to the three new caps, Rowen Shepherd, Hastings's successor at full back, Jim Hay, the hooker, and Stuart Reid at No 8, who will make their international debuts in front of an estimated crowd of 50,000 at Murrayfield. There will also be a new captain in Rob Wainwright, who knows the side will have to tackle as remorselessly as North and Midlands did against the Samoans on Tuesday night.

A similar result, 43-9, is beyond his expectations for he and the team accept that the touring side will be a different proposition and that their focus is on the international matches against the Scots and England. Telfer said: "It doesn't matter where they are in their own half they will run, as they proved in the A game."

Therein lies Scotland's problem against a side which had a World Cup record in 1991 and 1995 almost as good as their hosts. The Scottish side is brimful of attacking talent in a back division where the average age is only 24. But it is their defensive capabilites which will come under scrutiny. Much will depend on the decision-making of Bryan Redpath and Craig Chalmers at half back, especially Chalmers' kicking.

Scotland should have the upper hand. They should hit the ground running and start the new era with a victory — provided they do not miss Hastings too much.

SCOTLAND: R J S Shepherd (Melrose); M Dods (Northampton), G P J Townsend (Northampton), A G Shiel (Melrose), K M Logan (Stirling County); C M Chalmers (Melrose), B W Redpath (Melrose), D I W Hilton (Bath), J A Hay (Hawick), A P Burnell (London Scottish), R I Wainwright (West Hartlepool, captain), G W Weir (Melrose), D F Cronin (Bourges), I R Smith (Gloucester), S J Reid (Boroughmuir) Replacements: H R Gilmour (Heriot's), I C Jardine (Stirling County), G Armstrong (Jed-Forest), S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP), J J Manson (Stirling County), S Brotherstone (Melrose).

WESTERN SAMOA: V Patu (Vaiala); B Lima (Marist), T Vaega (Te Atatu), G Leaupepe (Te Atatu), A Telea (Petone); D Kellett (Ponsonby), J Filemu (Wellington); M Mika (Otago University), T Leiasamaivao (Wellington), P Fatialofa (Manukau), S Kaleta (Ponsonby), L Falaniko (Marist), P Leavasa (Apia), S Vaitale (Marist), P Lam (Auckland, captain) Replacements: M Vaea (Marist), C Burnes (University), S Leaega (Suburbs), S Smith (Helensville), G Latu (Vaimoso), B Reidy (Marist St Pats).

Referee: T Henning (South Africa).

Irish will dispense with frills to contain Fijians

From John Hopkins
IN DUBLIN

IRELAND concluded their preparations for the game against Fiji this afternoon on a sunlit pitch at Lansdowne Road just before lunch yesterday morning. In the deserted stadium, Ireland ran through a few set moves under the eye of Murray Kidd, the former All Black centre, who has been appointed as national coach.

These are changing times for Ireland. This is the first Ireland team to have been prepared by Kidd and managed by Pat Whelan, the former hooker and chairman of selectors.

The influence of Whelan, who won 19 caps and was a replacement for his country on a further 22 occasions, and Kidd has been welcomed by the players. Training was, if anything, more purposeful, shorter, perhaps, and sharper under Kidd than under Gerry Murphy, his predecessor.

The two newcomers, furthermore, are of like mind in their view of the game today. Neither says that it is the way the team plays that counts. They both want victory. Such a prize will be beyond Ireland if the Fijians are given as much latitude as they were against Wales in Cardiff last Saturday. Against Wales, the Fijians could have won; against Ireland, the Fijians should win.

"First we want to win the match," Whelan said. "Then we want to demonstrate a pattern of play that the man in the street will recognise. I think that Irish rugby, inconsistently, is as good as any in the world. I want Ireland to prove they have the same qualities at home as were shown occasionally in South Africa."

Ireland have made seven changes from the side that was defeated by France in the quarter-finals of the World Cup in the summer.

"I want to control the passion that every Irish team has and channel it into enabling the team to produce it for 80 minutes on the pitch instead of 60," Kidd said. "Brad [Johnston, the Fiji coach] has to try and utilise the incredible talent the Fijians have, give them more focus, more awareness of tight play. Against them we will have to control the football. Give the Fijians the ball and they'll run it back in your faces in no time."

IRELAND: J E Staples (Harlequins, captain); R M Wallace (Garryowen), M Field (Malone), J C Bell (Northampton), S P Geoghegan (Bath); P A Burke (Cork Constitution), C Saverimutto (Sale), N J Popplewell (Newcastle), T J Kingston (Dolphin), P S Wallace (Blackrock College), J Davidson (Dungannon), G M Fulcher (Cork Constitution), N P J Francis (Old Belvedere), D Corkery (Terenure College), P S Johns (Dungannon). Replacements: S McCahill (Sunday's Well), E P Elwood (Lansdowne), N Doak (NIFC), W D McBride (Malone), H D Hurley (Old Wesley), A Clarke (Northampton)

FIJI: F Rayasi (King Country); P Bale (Canterbury), S Sorovaki (Wellington), L Little (King Country), M Bari (Tavua), J Waqa (Nadroga), J Rauluni (Easts), J Veitayaki (King Country, captain), G Smith (Waileko), E Natuivau (Suva), T Tamanivalu (Brothers), E Katalau (Poverty Bay), A Nadolo (Suva), W Masirewa (Counties), I Tawake (Nadroga). Replacements: W Cavubati (Wellington), E Batimala (Nadroga), L Vatureva (Wellington), J McLennan (Auckland), R Bogisa (Nadi), W Rokotuiviwa (Rewa)

Referee: P O'Brien (New Zealand).

France can soar on refreshing wind of change

From Gerald Davies
IN PARIS

THERE is a fresh breeze blowing through France. This is not the remnants of the *vent d'Autan* which blew so forcibly in Toulouse last weekend. It is a wind of change that is perceived to be insinuating itself into the national rugby team, who play New Zealand in the second and final international at Parc des Princes today. This, too, emanates from Toulouse and comes in the form of the coaching philosophy so long espoused in that club.

Not only does Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach and the great wing forward from Jacques Fouroux's mighty team of the 1970s, hail from there, so also do five of the players. Three others, Benetton, Pellous and Sadourny, who are in an unchanged team from last Saturday, were taught rugby in the local lycée. Nowadays, they play for other clubs.

Furthermore, if it is Skrela who exerts his authority as national coach, there are two others in an unofficial capacity behind the scenes who are persuasive in shaping things. They are Robert Bru and Pierre Villepreux, who, over the past decade or so have helped to develop what is referred to as the *methode Toulousain*.

This is based on those elusive concepts, much talked-about but rarely accomplished, of playing rugby to please and to win, to exercise control within defined patterns yet allow for a freedom of expression. The fundamental principle, according to Villepreux, is to play rugby with the ball in the hand. Defence is important but attack is even more so.

The French will take the field happier that André Herrero, their manager, is back in charge after resigning a week ago. The players had made it clear that it was the French Federation, not Herrero, who was their target when they boycotted an official function before the first international.

France, with three consecutive victories already against New Zealand, a feat shared with South Africa (albeit with six years difference in 1970 and 1976) and Australia (in 1978/79) are on the verge of creating a record. Having gained two victories in New Zealand last year and another achieved last week, no country has beaten the All Blacks four times in succession.

This, in itself, should provide sufficient stimulus to motivate their opponents and for Laurie Mains, whose tenure as coach of the All Blacks comes to an end today. In giving first caps to Justin Marshall at scrum half and Liam Barry on the flank this brings the total to 51 players Mains has used in four years.

Barry is a third-generation All Black following on from his grandfather, E F 'Ned' Barry, in 1932 and father, Kevin, in 1963. A late change due to injury brings in Osborne to replace Wilson at full back.

With France's avowed intention to play the ball in the hand and New Zealand's desire to use Lomu in the wide open spaces, there are exciting prospects at hand.

PARC DES PRINCES TEAMS

FRANCE: J-L Sadourny (Colomiers); E Ntamack (Toulouse), R Dourthe (Dax), T Castaignède (Toulouse), P Saint-André (Montferrand, captain). A Penaud (Brive). P Carbonneau (Toulouse); L Bénézech (Racing Club), M de Rougemont (Toulon), C Califano (Toulouse), P Benetton (Agen), O Merle (Montferrand), F Pelous (Dax), A Carminati (Brive), A Benazzi (Agen) Replacements: D Berty (Toulouse), C Lamaison (Bayonne), G Accocebarry (Bègles-Bordeaux), M Lièvremont (Perpignan), S Graou (Colomiers), O Azam (Montferrand).

NEW ZEALAND: G Osborne (North Harbour): E Rush (North Harbour), F Bunce (North Harbour), W Little (North Harbour), J Lomu (Counties); S Culhane (Southland), J Marshall (Canterbury); C Dowd (Auckland), S Fitzpatrick (Auckland, captain), O Brown (Auckland), M Jones (Auckland), I Jones (North Harbour), R Brooke (Auckland), L Barry (North Harbour), Z Brooke (Auckland) Replacements: S Forster (Otago). A Ieremia (Wellington), C Spencer (Auckland), B Larsen (North Harbour), R Loe (Canterbury), N Hewitt (Southland)

Referee: P Marshall (Australia).

Egyptians silenced by Walker

ENGLAND cruised into the final of the world team squash championship by beating Egypt 3-0 in Cairo yesterday. A determined performance at second string from Chris Walker, the England No 3, whose position has been under threat from the fourth-ranked Mark Chaloner, was the foundation of a comprehensive victory.

Walker took on Ahmed Barada, Cairo's favourite son and the reigning world junior champion, and defeated him 6-9, 10-8, 9-1, 9-7 in 72 minutes. In the process, he reduced a baying Egyptian crowd to polite and disappointed applause.

Amir Wagih, a slight but skilful first string, who defeated Sami Elopuro and Anders Thoren in the earlier rounds and even gave Jansher Khan some problems, scarcely fired at all against the heavy bombardment of Del Harris. Harris, brought into the Engand front line in order to rest Simon Parke for the final today, won 9-5, 9-2, 9-0.

Walker's grittiness will have made selection of the final three a problem for Stuart Courtney and Neil Harvey, the England management, who might previously have preferred the steady strength of Chaloner. Yesterday, he tidied up the dead rubber in the semi-final 9-3, 9-6, 9-5 in 62 minutes against Ahmed Faizy.

Impressive Hendry takes lead

STEPHEN HENDRY and John Higgins, first and second in the provisional world snooker rankings, confirmed their status when the Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship got under way in Preston yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Hendry, the defending champion, was immediately into his stride against Jamie Burnett, a former UK junior champion, from Hamilton. Hendry made his passage into the last 32 seemingly certain by building a 6-2 lead.

Twelve months ago, Hendry broke his record for the number of century breaks compiled in a ranking event. He registered 12, including seven during a 10-5 victory over Ken Doherty in the final, and it took the world champion only two frames yesterday to post his first of this tournament. His 133 total clearance was the highlight of the session.

Higgins also lived up to expectations on his debut at the Guild Hall, including breaks of 123 and 101 as he established a 6-2 overnight lead against Mark King, of Romford.

Dennis Taylor, the former world champion, 24th in the provisional standings but with an outside chance of regaining the top-16 status he enjoyed for so long, leads Jimmy Michie, of Pontefract, 6-2.

FOR THE RECORD

BOWLS

JERSEY: European indoor team championships: Men: Singles: Scotland (G Robertson) bt Wales (S Rees) 7-2, 7-3, 7-0; Ireland (J Henry) bt Guernsey (J Quenpel) 7-1, 7-2, 7-6, England (A Thomson) bt Jersey (D Le Marquand) 7-4, 4-7, 7-4, 7-2. Fours: Wales 34 Guernsey 12; England 22 Ireland 17; Jersey 24 Scotland 18 Women: Singles: Scotland (J Lindores) bt Wales (R Jones) 7-2, 7-3, 7-5; Guernsey (A Simon) bt Ireland (M Johnston) 0-7, 7-4, 7-3, 7-2; England (J Roylance) bt Jersey (V Stead) 7-4, 7-6, 7-1. Fours: England 23 Guernsey 17, Scotland 19 Ireland 13; Wales 18 Jersey 8; Guernsey 29 Wales 12; Jersey 19 Scotland 17; Ireland 15 England 15

CRICKET

CALCUTTA (first women's Test; India won toss): England have scored 117 for one wicket against India

ENGLAND: First Innings

J Britin not out	66
H Plimmer b Bhatt	42
B Daniels not out	7
Extras (w 2)	2
Total (1 wkt)	117

K Smithies, J Smit, J Chamberlain, K Leng, S Metcalfe, M Reynard, D Stock and C Taylor to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-108

BOWLING: Francis 13-3-32-0; Margreat 10-2-29-0; Chopra 4-0-7-0; David 7-3-12-0; Bhatt 9-0-25-1; Dabir 3-1-2-0; Rao 4-1-10-0.

FOOTBALL

UEFA UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary round: England 2 Latvia 0.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Second round: Blackpool 1 Liverpool 2. FA Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Hertfordshire 3 Cambridgeshire 0; Suffolk 1 Inner London 3. Vale Cup: Watford 1 High Wycombe 1

GOLF

MIYAZAKI, Japan: Dunlop Phoenix tournament: Leading second-round scores: (Japan unless stated). 133: P Senior (Aus) 69, 64. 135: R Gamez (US) 66 69. 136: M Ozaki 65 70; B Lane (Eng) 64, 72; T Watson (US) 66, 70; L Nelson (US) 69, 67; N Serizawa 69, 67; B Jobe (US) 69, 67; H Sasaki 69, 67; M Kuramoto 68, 68. Other scores: 138: V Singh (Fiji) 68, 70. 141: M Campbell (NZ) 72, 69; E Els (SA) 68, 73; M A Jimenez (Sp) 70 71; 142: C Rocca (It) 74, 68; 149: P Walton (N Ire) 70, 79

HONG KONG: Hong Kong Open: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated). 132: R Alarcon (Mex) 65, 67. 135: Y Chang-ting (Taiwan) 67, 68; 136: F Casas (Phi) 72, 64, A Cruse (SA) 69, 67. 137: A Painter (Aus) 69, 68; G Webb 68, 69; 139: J Milkha Singh (Ind) 72, 67; P Jones (Can) 71, 68

COSTA DEL SOL: Johnnie Walker European PGA team championship: Final scores: 416: Spain (T Munoz 68, F Valera 70) 417: Holland (J Saxton 64, R Wachgelaer 71). 421: Scotland (C Gillies 69, A Webster 71), England (P Carman 69, J Higgins 69). 424: Portugal (A Sobrinho 68, D Silva 70) 428: Ireland (K Morris 70, D Mooney 74).

AUSTRALIA: Alpine Ladies Masters championship: Leading second-round scores: (Aus unless stated) 134: A Sorenstam (Swe) 66, 68 137: S Wilkams 68, 69 138: L Neumann (Swe) 66, 72: A Nicholas (Eng) 68, 70. 139: C Nilsmark (Swe) 69, 70. 140: K Webb 68, 72 141: K Orum (Den) 68, 73; S Waugh 68, 73; A-M Knight 71, 70; S Belkoff 70, 71; J Mills 72, 71; N Lowien 71, 70

HOCKEY

CAPE TOWN: Women's Olympic qualifying tournament: Great Britain 1 Canada 1; Argentina 1 South Korea 0, Holland 3 South Africa 2

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: South of Scotland 56 Griqualand West 24.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Eton 39 St Edward's, Oxford 10; Mill Hill 10 Ipswich 0

SKIING

VAIL: Women's super-giant slalom: 1, M Ertl (Ger) 1min 22.49sec; 2, K Seizinger (Ger) 1:23.06; 3, I Kostner (It) 1:23.57; 4, A Wachter (Austria) 1:23.61; 5, M Dorfmeister (Austria) 1:23.66. Nations Cup standings: 1, Germany 229pts; 2, Austria 209; 3, Switzerland 95, 4, Italy 89; 5, United States 34.

SNOOKER

PRESTON: Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship: First round: S Hendry (Sco) leads J Burnett (Sco) 6-2; A Hamilton (Eng) leads S Pettman (Eng) 6-2; B Morgan (Eng) leads S Reardon (Eng) 5-3; J Higgins (Sco) leads M King (Eng) 6-2; D Taylor (N Ire) leads J Michie (Eng) 6-2; C Small (Sco) leads D Roe (England) 5-3.

SQUASH

CAIRO: World team championship: Quarter-finals: England 3 Canada 0 (S Parke bt G Waite 8-9, 9-2, 9-2, 9-4; D Harris bt J Power 9-3, 9-4, 6-9, 0-9, 9-0; M Chaloner bt G Ryding 9-3, 9-3, 9-1); Egypt 2 Finland 1. Ninth-place play-offs: Germany 2 Hong Kong 1; Wales 3 Scotland 0 (D Evans bt A Taylor 9-10, 9-4, 9-4, 5-9, 9-4; A Gough bt D Gordon 9-6, 6-9, 9-5, 9-3; G Davies bt A Thompson 9-0, 9-0, 9-0), Sweden 2 Argentina 1. France 2 Ireland 1 (J Bonetat lost to D Ryan 1-9, 9-3, 1-9, 1-9; J Arcucci bt S Richardson 5-9, 9-7, 9-3, 9-1; T Lincou bt E Ryan 9-2, 9-4, 9-2). Lower-place play-offs: Holland 3 Denmark 0; Switzerland 3 Kuwait 0; India 2 Greece 1; Spain 3 Austria 0; Singapore 2 Brazil 1; Italy 3 Malaysia 0; United States 3 Portugal 0; Nigeria 3 Japan 0; Spain 2 Italy 1; Holland 2 Singapore 1; Kuwait 2 Greece 1; Japan 2 Portugal 1. Semi-final: England 3 Egypt 0 (D Harris bt A Wagih 9-5, 9-2, 9-0; C Walker bt A Barada 6-9, 10-8, 9-1, 9-7. M Chaloner bt A Faizy 9-3, 9-6, 9-5).

TENNIS

PATTAYA, Thailand: Women's tournament: Second round: M Vento (Ven) bt N Faber (Bel) 6-3, 7-5; R Grande (It) bt J Husarova (Slovakia) 6-2, 6-2; Wang Shi-ting (Tai) bt C Cristea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4; A Olsza (Pol) bt S Meier (Ger) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; Yi Jingqian (China) bt O Lugina (Ukr) 7-6, 6-7, 6-2; N Kijimuta (Japan) bt P Sung-hee (S Kor) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. Third round: Grande bt Vento 7-5, 4-6, 6-2; B Paulus (Austria) bt N Miyagi (Japan) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3; Tang Min (HK) bt Chen Li (China) 7-6, 7-5.

TENPIN BOWLING

SAO PAULO: World Cup: Leading placings (fourth day): Men: 1, N Takahama (Japan) 7,009 pins; 2, P Healey (US) 6,974; 3, D Falconi (Mex) 6,806. Women: 1, G Burden (GB) 6,748; 2, K Cameron (US) 6,704; 3, L Gongora (Mex) 6,552.

VOLLEYBALL

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP (in Osaka): Cuba 3 China 0; Kenya 3 Egypt 0; Holland 3 South Korea 2; Brazil 3 Peru 0; Cuba 3 Japan 0 (in Kobe): South Korea 3 Canada 0; Holland 3 Croatia 0; Croatia 3 Egypt 0; United States 3 China 0; Canada 3 Kenya 0. Leading final positions: 1, Cuba, played 11, won 11; 2, Brazil 11, 10; 3, China 11, 8; 4, Croatia 11, 7.

Unbeaten pair meet head on

OLD Loughtonians and Reading, unbeaten and level on points, meet at Chigwell today to decide who should be undisputed leaders of hockey's National League (Sydney Friskin writes).

Looking back on the 6-2 victory last week over Teddington, Billy McPherson, the Old Loughtonians coach, said yesterday: "We are becoming stronger with every game because our patterns are working. This is an important match and although it is not going to decide the title, the winners will have a psychological advantage."

Halls is not yet fit to play for Old Loughtonians but will act as manager, as he did last week.

All is well with Reading, who lead the table on goal difference. Their squad includes Max Klink, a student at Marlborough College, who has played for Germany at under-21 level.

If this match is drawn, it will give Cannock a chance to move to the top of the table provided they beat Surbiton, whose improved displays have taken them into fourth position. Southgate, in third place, expect to pick up maximum points from their visit to Hull, who have lost all five matches so far.

Havant and Hounslow, both former champions but now in the middle of the table, will battle for points at Havant College. Havant have recovered confidence after a 4-2 win last week over Barford Tigers.

Guildford will start the defence of the Hockey Association Cup at home tomorrow, with a third-round match against Harleston Magpies and Teddington, the runners-up last year, are the visitors at Dereham, a non-league side.

Britain put to the test

JENNIE CARDWELL, the manager of the Great Britain women's hockey team, has promised a much-improved display against Germany in the Olympic qualifying tournament in Cape Town today.

The management found it hard to conceal its disappointment after Great Britain opened with a 1-1 draw against Canada, during which they managed only three shots on target and squandered eight penalty corners.

Sue Slocombe, the coach, and Cardwell said that the squad had spent "hours and hours" practising set pieces and could not understand why the players crumbled under pressure. They also know Germany, the Olympic silver medal-winners, will afford fewer chances.

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SPORT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18 1995

RUGBY UNION 47
ENGLAND FACING
STERN TEST FROM
WORLD CHAMPIONS

South Africa's hopes founder as Russell provides victory platform in opening match

England move to high Test ground

From Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, in Pretoria

CENTURION PARK (second day of five): England have scored 381 for nine wickets against South Africa

IT IS never wise to be dogmatic where the England cricket team is concerned, but by the time an afternoon thunderstorm transformed Centurion Park into a boating lake yesterday, the spectre of defeat in this first Test match had been all but dispelled. If the flood waters subside — and the drains on this ground are legendary — England can now address the rising possibility of a victory to stun and subdue South Africa.

England, close to a fourth consecutive first-innings score of 400 in Tests, have three days to exploit the worn patches and uneven bounce that could decide this match. They have enough runs to win, but much will depend on the assistance available for Richard Illingworth. How fitting, how healthy and how ironic it would be if spin, for which South Africa show such disdain, were to strike the first blow in this series.

Already, England's cricket has been reassuringly robust, in contrast to their weak-kneed submission early in the series against Australia last winter. The courage of Michael Atherton and the fluency of Graeme Hick were augmented yesterday by some bludgeoning back-foot strokes from Robin Smith, and by the quintessential Jack Russell innings: inelegant to watch and infuriating to oppose, but triumphantly effective.

Russell, 50 not out and enjoying himself hugely in a last-wicket stand with Angus Fraser already worth 22, had to be persuaded to leave the field by umpires concerned not so much about the grim light, but about the risk to the players from the lightning that preceded the rains. Finally, the reluctant Russell agreed. "I didn't want to have anything like that on my conscience," he said.

The decision was academic because, within minutes, the storm was spectacularly under way, and it was clear that a semi-clad man surfing with a Lilo on the outfield was providing the last entertainment of the day.

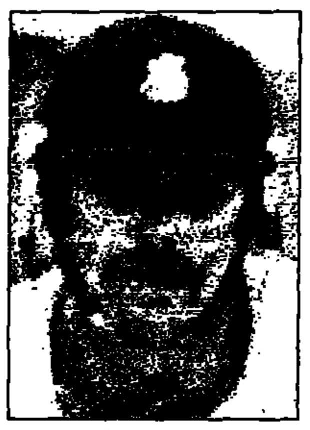
It was a chastening day for South Africa. Not only did they fail to dismiss, or even disturb, England with the second new ball, on which their lingering victory hopes appeared to depend, but they also lost the services of Brett Schultz, whose impact on this game has so far been somewhat less spectacular than his pre-publicity suggested.

Each evening here, a television commercial shows Schultz striking the bodies of a series of batsmen, to the accompaniment of sinister warnings and dramatic music. It is not an attractive advertisement for the game, and Schultz, who is not quite the roughneck his image suggests, must consider it an embarrassment.

Schultz was on the treatment table immediately after lunch, from where he was referred to a local hospital for X-rays on his troublesome buttock. At the outset of a series that many in South Africa expected to establish his name, it is a pain in the backside for Schultz in more ways than one.

Schultz managed only three overs yesterday, which transferred a heavier workload than was ideal onto Shaun Pollock. The young bowler, who is making his debut, did not flinch, impressing once again with his high, fluid action and a distinctly slippery short ball. Smith, who had uppercut him for six to third man for his first runs of the day, was hit twice, on helmet and body, in a period that illustrated how the bounce is uneven when the ball is hard. The England seamers will have approved.

The game hereabouts was conducted in a vacuum as the electronic scoreboards had frozen and the public address doggedly declined to inform anyone of the score. Another moderate crowd, enjoying a cooler day, found little in the cricket to excite it as Hick, who has never played with such command for England, set himself to still more ambitious peaks, and as Smith punctuated the morning with some of his favoured square cuts.



Smith: hit twice

They had added 84 when Smith, half-forward with a crooked bat to the admirable McMillan, lost his off stump. His first innings against his native country may not have satisfied him, but it was evidence of better to come. The South Africans celebrated, the back of the innings seemingly broken, but they are not the first team to have reckoned without Russell.

Since being restored to the Test side at Trent Bridge in July, Russell has been busily winning over the faith of manager and captain, though more with his attitude and his batting than through wicketkeeping susceptible to the occasional howler. He has already made 302 first-class runs on tour, for four times out, but, as ever with his idiosyncratic style, a stranger watching the first half-hour of his innings yesterday would have condemned him as a complete novice.

After a prolonged series of air shots, mostly intentional but all theatrically extravagant, Russell then began to time the ball exquisitely through the on side. There were ten fours in his fifth Test half-century, the great majority pulled or whipped to square leg, but when Pollock dropped short outside the off stump he treated him to a classical back-foot cover drive just to disprove the stereotyping.

Hick left him ten overs into the second session, hitting across the line to give Pollock a deserved leg-before. McMillan, economical and persevering, dispatched Cork with the sucker-punch short ball, and Gough, playing down the wrong line, but Donald's clinical dismissal of Illingworth still left Russell to overcome. Only the umpires could remove him from the ground.

CENTURION PARK SCOREBOARD

South Africa won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings

*M A Atherton c Donald b Pollock 78
(339min, 260 balls, 10 fours)
A J Stewart c Matthews b Schultz . 6
(35min, 22 balls, 1 four)
M R Ramprakash c Richardson b Donald . . . 9
(31min, 19 balls)
G P Thorpe c Richardson b Pollock 13
(50min, 29 balls, 2 fours)
G A Hick lbw b Pollock . . . 141
(392min, 278 balls, 25 fours)
R A Smith b McMillan . . . 43
(110min, 81 balls, 1 six, 6 fours)
†R C Russell not out . . . 50
(156min, 119 balls, 10 fours)
D G Cork c Matthews b McMillan 13
(35min, 24 balls, 3 fours)
D Gough b McMillan . . . 0
(13min, 9 balls)
R K Illingworth b Donald . . . 0
(6min, 5 balls)
A R C Fraser not out . . . 4
(38min, 20 balls, 1 four)
Extras (lb 16, w 1, nb 7) . . . 24
Total (9 wkts, 143 overs, 607min) 381

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-14 (Atherton 8), 2-36 (Atherton 21), 3-64 (Atherton 34), 4-206 (Hick 91), 5-290 (Hick 126), 6-320 (Russell 9), 7-350 (Russell 25), 8-358 (Russell 33), 9-359 (Russell 34).

BOWLING: Donald 33-10-92-2 (w 1, 5-2-4-0, 3-1-4-1, 5-2-8-0, 5-3-10-0, 3-0-17-0, 6-1-25-0, 6-1-24-1); Schultz 16-5-47-1 (6-2-16-1, 3-0-14-0, 4-2-15-0, 3-1-2-0); Matthews 30-13-63-0 (5-1-16-0, 6-1-12-0, 6-4-16-0, 5-3-8-0, 7-3-11-0, 1-1-0-0). Pollock 29-7-98-3 (nb 6; 7-3-21-1, 4-0-10-0, 8-2-28-1, 1-0-3-0, 6-1-26-1, 3-1-10-0); McMillan 25-10-50-3 (nb 2; 6-2-9-0, 5-0-23-0, 7-4-9-1, 7-4-9-2); Cronje 8-5-14-0 (4-3-2-0, 4-2-12-0); Kirsten 2-1-1-0 (one spell).

SCORING DETAILS: Lunch. 297-5 (113 overs, 473min). Hick 131, Russell 0 Tea (taken at 3.25pm because of approaching storm): 381-9 (143 overs, 607min). Russell 50, Fraser 4.

SOUTH AFRICA: A C Hudson, G Kirsten, *W J Cronje, D J Cullinan, J N Rhodes, B M McMillan, †D J Richardson, S M Pollock, C R Matthews, A A Donald, B N Schultz

Umpires: C J Mitchley and S Venkataraghavan (India). TV replay umpire: D L Orchard. Match referee: C H Lloyd (West Indies).

TESTS TO COME: Second (Johannesburg): Nov 30 to Dec 4. Third (Durban): Dec 14 to 18. Fourth (Port Elizabeth): Dec 26 to 30. Fifth (Cape Town): Jan 2 to 6.

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

Six for Salisbury, page 42
Pakistan fight back, page 42

GRAHAM MORRIS

Russell pulls powerfully for a boundary on his way to an unbeaten 50 at Centurion Park yesterday

Son enjoys leading role in the name of the father

DAVID MILLER

At the first Test

There is something especially thrilling about being witness to the first appearance of a sportsman likely to reach for the stars. Of the three players igniting the first Test match here, Mike Atherton, Graeme Hick and Shaun Pollock, it is the ginger-haired 22-year-old son of the father who has most caught the public imagination.

Peter Pollock's boy — a label soon to be left behind at this rate — has a classic, almost majestic fast bowler's action. He runs to the wicket with an uninhibited surge of youth that gladdens the heart and, my goodness, how it frightens the enemy. His three for 98, including the wickets of Atherton, Thorpe and, finally, at 141, the flourishing Hick, is surely only a foretaste of hurricanes to come.

From high in the grandstand of Centurion Park, the man who stands third in South Africa's list of Test wicket-takers behind Tayfield and Goddard — 116 at an average of 24.18, with a first-class career total of 485 at 21.89 — gazed down in quiet satisfaction as the son upstaged the stalwarts of South Africa's allegedly formidable all-pace attack (of McMillan's three wickets, two tail-enders fell after Pollock had trapped Hick leg-before).

The father, now South Africa's chairman of the selectors, lightly dismisses the charge of nepotism, though in truth the son had effectively already done so. "I always felt there were more complications for those posing the question than there were for me," he said. "It hasn't put me in any embarrassing position."

The United Cricket Board long ago discussed, and waived, the possible conflict of interest within the seven-man selection committee that includes Hansie Cronje, the captain, and Bob Woolmer, the coach, as non-voting members. When Krish Mackerdhuj, chairman of the board, announced the team for this Test in Durban — "and, for his first appearance . . ." — there was a spontaneous round of public applause.

"It was then that it hit me," the father said. "At that moment, I was 'dad', and proud. I would be lying if I denied it was special when he walked onto the field here. Yet it's a thin line that separates sportsmen. Cricket's about consistency, not a flash in the pan. In sport, you don't get to the top unless you are good enough, there's no hiding place."

Eleven years ago, the father gave up a business career to become a full-time preacher and missionary. He chooses his words carefully.

Shaun is the younger of two sons, and the father had soon detected a combination of enthusiasm and ability; though, in mid-school in Natal, the son's growth temporarily slowed and, for a while, he was primarily a No 3 batsman. Then he accelerated upwards again. Father and son talked regularly, but never too ambitiously, about his prospects. "He did have the breaks, besides good schools and good coaches," the father reflected.

Pollock: hurricanes to come

Over the past two days and 29 overs, the son has shown commendable control of line and length, moving the ball both ways from close to the bowler's wicket, and intermittently unleashing a menacing bouncer. It was a nastily lifting ball that dismissed Atherton.

"His arm comes high over the top, giving him maximum bounce," the father said. "Bowling is about rhythm, not brute force. He's put on a yard or two of pace recently, and his bounce is somwething special that catches the batsman." Pollock Sr is optimistic that the son's natural flow, the loose roll of his shoulders and follow-through, will reduce the likelihood of injury.

Yet, like Raymond Illingworth, the England manager — who lets nobody forget his 20,000 runs and 2,000 wickets — the father, with an older man's wisdom, emphasises the value of heart and head above technique. "One, the guts, the other the temperament," he said. "That's what makes the difference. Big match temperament. That's what Tony Greig had."

From the days of Adcock and Heine in the mid-1950s, South Africa has always possessed pace bowlers. These are a basis of the history of the game, Pollock Sr said. But the bottom line is bowlers. *All* bowlers. "Our youngsters seem to think fast bowling is glamorous," he said, "but we have to encourage spin bowlers. We're very excited about the little leggie [Paul Adams]. Our batsmen have been good players of spin over the years, and we've currently had success against Australia, in spite of Warne."

In the constantly changing world of Test cricket, the immediate future may belong to South Africa, never mind that England have the upper hand after two days in this match. Uncertainty makes for drama, but there is little uncertainty about the potential of the son of the father. Warwickshire enviously hope to sign him as their overseas player for next season. Excitement seems sure to accompany him.

Leeds complete Brolin transfer but debut is delayed

By Peter Ball and Russell Kempson

LEEDS United yesterday completed the transfer of the Sweden forward, Tomas Brolin, from Parma for a fee of around £4.5 million. Brolin is expected to make his debut against Newcastle United in the FA Carling Premiership at St James' Park a week today, providing his international clearance has come through.

"It is a pleasure for me to come to a big club like Leeds," Brolin said, although he has a get-out clause in his contract allowing him to leave if the move does not come up to his expectations. "It was a problem for me to get games in Parma," he said. "I want to play games and I hope I can do that in Leeds."

Having paid a substantial sum for a player who has been only on the fringe of Parma's team since breaking his foot a year ago, Leeds evidently hope so too, particularly as the goals have dried up for Brolin's anticipated partner, Tony Yeboah, who has gone eight matches without scoring.

"Tomas has come here to help us score goals," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said. Brolin is expected to try to do so from a position just behind Yeboah, similar to the role Dennis Bergkamp favours at Arsenal. Leeds had hoped that he would do so against Chelsea today but the clearance from Italy is unlikely to arrive this morning. "It won't break my heart, or his, if he's not available against Chelsea," Wilkinson said.

Home talent led astray . . . 43
Guide to Premiership matches . . . 43

The player admitted that he was short of match fitness, having had only seven games, three for Parma and four for Sweden, this season. "I need games," Brolin said. "I feel fit, but I need games to reach my right level. I think it will be a month before I gain my top form."

England, the hosts, have been confirmed as one of the four seeds for the European championship finals next year. They have been placed in group A of the tournament, which will be staged in London and Birmingham, and will play all their pool matches at Wembley.

At a meeting in Geneva yesterday, Uefa's European championship committee also seeded Denmark, the holders, Germany and Spain. They were nominated because of their impressive qualifying records for the 1994 World Cup and Euro '96 but will have to wait until December 17, at the draw in Birmingham, to discover where they will be based.

Group B matches will be at Elland Road, Leeds, and St James' Park, Newcastle; group C at Old Trafford, Manchester, and Anfield, Liverpool; and group D at Hillsborough, Sheffield, and the City Ground, Nottingham. The other 12 non-seeded qualifiers will each be allocated one of the four groups on December 17.

Uefa, the sport's European governing body, also announced that Ireland's qualifying play-off against Holland at Anfield on December 13 will incorporate the "golden goal" rule. If the teams are level after 90 minutes, a possible 30 minutes of extra time can be played, with the tie being settled by the first goal scored. A penalty shoot-out will be used if there are no goals during extra time.

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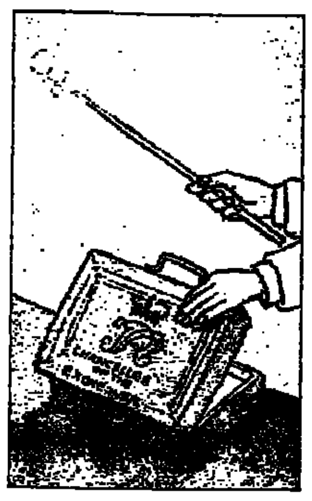
PROPERTY



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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18 1995

HARDY AMIES: HOW I CHANGED MY OLD SCHOOL UNIFORM

HARDY AMIES
LONDON

By Ginny Dougary

There is something about fields in the rain, the talk of mufti and exeats and comebacks that makes you revisit long-forgotten — perhaps best-forgotten — scenes. Back to a sun-filled room at the end of the marble corridor. The girls in greengage uniforms bent over desks, yawning in the summer heat. The sudden stirring of interest as the geography teacher removes his jacket, with a furtive, almost apologetic shrug, to reveal a nylon shirt with great dark moons under the arms. "Pongo" Price, as I recall the unhappy man's name, was in no danger of inflaming our adolescent hearts. But he had broken the rules — and this was almost as exciting, in a school which not long before my time required its 800 girls to line up for knicker inspection, and expected its teachers to adhere to a strict dress code.

This memory seems steeped in another age, but some things do not change. The subject of school uniforms continues to excite strong passions, as I have discovered now that I have children of my own. My sons attend a local school, Honeywell in Wandsworth, southwest London, which is battling to maintain its excellent standards in the wave of yet more cuts. This term the children have been asked to provide their own pencils and sharpeners, crayons and rulers; redecoration has been postponed; the budget for special needs teachers has been slashed. And yet the issue which has been contested most heatedly by the parents — as though the very future of our democracy depended on its resolution — has been whether or not to introduce a school uniform.

What is interesting is that there is no telling which side of the barricades the participants will occupy. The parents who espouse one liberal argument — that a uniform is a great social leveller — find themselves alongside the parents who believe that a uniform instils a sense of pride in the school, and that it is somehow more socially desirable. On the other side of the battlefield is a rival set of liberal parents who consider a school uniform represents everything they dislike about English schools and private schools in particular, that it is a symbol of stuffy conformism and a denial of their children's right to free expression.

At Brentwood, a former grammar school founded by Sir Antony Browne in 1557, the discussion of school uniforms is of a rather more sober and distinctly arcane nature. One of the central figures in the debate, Sir Hardy Amies, dressmaker by appointment to the Queen, and a Brentwood old boy, refers to it

Continued on page 3, col 1

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CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

WE THREE KINGS: The brand-new Buckinghamshire County Museum, situated in a splendidly reconditioned house with Tudor and Georgian elements, opens auspiciously with a delightful and scholarly harbinger of Christmas to come. The Magi, it transpires, are far more hazy and mysterious characters than we have probably imagined. At the beginning they were regarded simply as "wise men" — scholars, priests, magicians even — but gradually they were redefined as kings, and furnished with names. Several of the earliest representations are on carved ivory plaques, mostly lent by the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert. Later depictions become more wide-ranging. The subject obviously continues to haunt artists' imaginations.
Buckinghamshire County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury (01296 331441). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sunday 2-5pm. ♿

MRS JORDAN: The numerous children of Mrs Jordan lived in and around the court of the young Victoria, recognised without demur as cousins of the Queen. As indeed they were, their father being Victoria's uncle, William IV. Mrs Jordan was more than the king's mistress: she was one of the leading actresses of her day, universally recognised as the Comic Muse while Mrs Siddons was the Tragic. As such Mrs Jordan was endlessly painted and sculpted, and the backbone of this show is the long series of portraits, concluding with a cast of Sir Francis Chantry's posthumous group of her and two of her ten children. Although she never stopped acting, her liaison with the Duke of Clarence (future William IV) attracted her to the attention of political caricaturists such as Gillray.
Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, London NW3 (0181-348 1286). Daily, 10am-4pm, until December 3. Admission £3, concessions £2.25.

JAZZ AND CABARET

Clive Davis

KATIA AND MARIELLE LABEQUE: A series of duets with such luminaries as Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea and Joe Zawinul, Katia Labèque's album *Little Girl Blue* makes a persuasive case for the classical/jazz crossover. She and her sister will be serving up more fizzing cocktails from both traditions on this tour. Their guest is the volcanic Cuban pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba.
Queen's Hall, Clerk St, Edinburgh ♿ (0131-668 2019) tonight; **Royal Concert Hall**, Glasgow ♿ (0141-353 4131) tomorrow; **Liverpool Philharmonic** (0151-709 3789) Mon 20; **Corn Exchange**, Cambridge ♿ (01223 357851), Tues 21; **Belfast Festival** (01232 665577), Wed 22; **Town Hall**, Birmingham (0121-605 6666), Thur 23; **Festival Hall**, South Bank, London SE1 ♿ (0171-960 4242), Fri 24.

CAROL KIDD/ISSY VAN RANDWYCK/GEORGIE FAME: Carol Kidd can be counted among the most sensitive interpreters of standards this country has ever produced. Her new Linn recording, *That's Me*, edges closer to the commercial mainstream. West End stage performer Issy Van Randwyck sweeps into Knightsbridge with an eclectic new cabaret show featuring songs by Sondheim, Gershwin and Kurt Weill. The durable Georgie Fame, meanwhile, continues to roam the fertile territory where jazz meets pop and rhythm and blues.
Kidd: **London International Jazz Festival**, Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 ♿ (0171-960 4242), tonight, 7.30pm; **Norwich Jazz Festival**, Stakis Hotel, Cromer Road (01603 660352), tomorrow; **The Pavilion**, North Parade, Bath (01225 448831), Wed 22.
Van Randwyck: **Pizza on the Park**, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273), Mon 20 to Sat 25, 9.15pm, 11.15pm.
Fame: **Ronnie Scott's**, Frith St, London W1 (0171-439 0747), Mon 20 to Sat Dec 2, main set from 10.30pm. ♿

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

DAVID HOCKNEY: Always a compulsive draughtsman, the unwearying Mr Hockney celebrates 40 years of mark-making on paper in a drawing retrospective at the Royal Academy. The range of styles is prodigious. Like his hero, Picasso, he never satisfies himself with a single solution. So smudgy, satirical studies of colonial governors are followed by sleek, sensual drawings of nude youths showering. Los Angeles is celebrated in a wall full of lawn sprinklers and swimming pools, but Hockney is even more interested in people. His portraits encompass the wrinkled W.H. Auden to a beatific Celia Birtwell. A virtuoso show.
Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-494 5676), daily, 10-6pm, until January 28. ♿

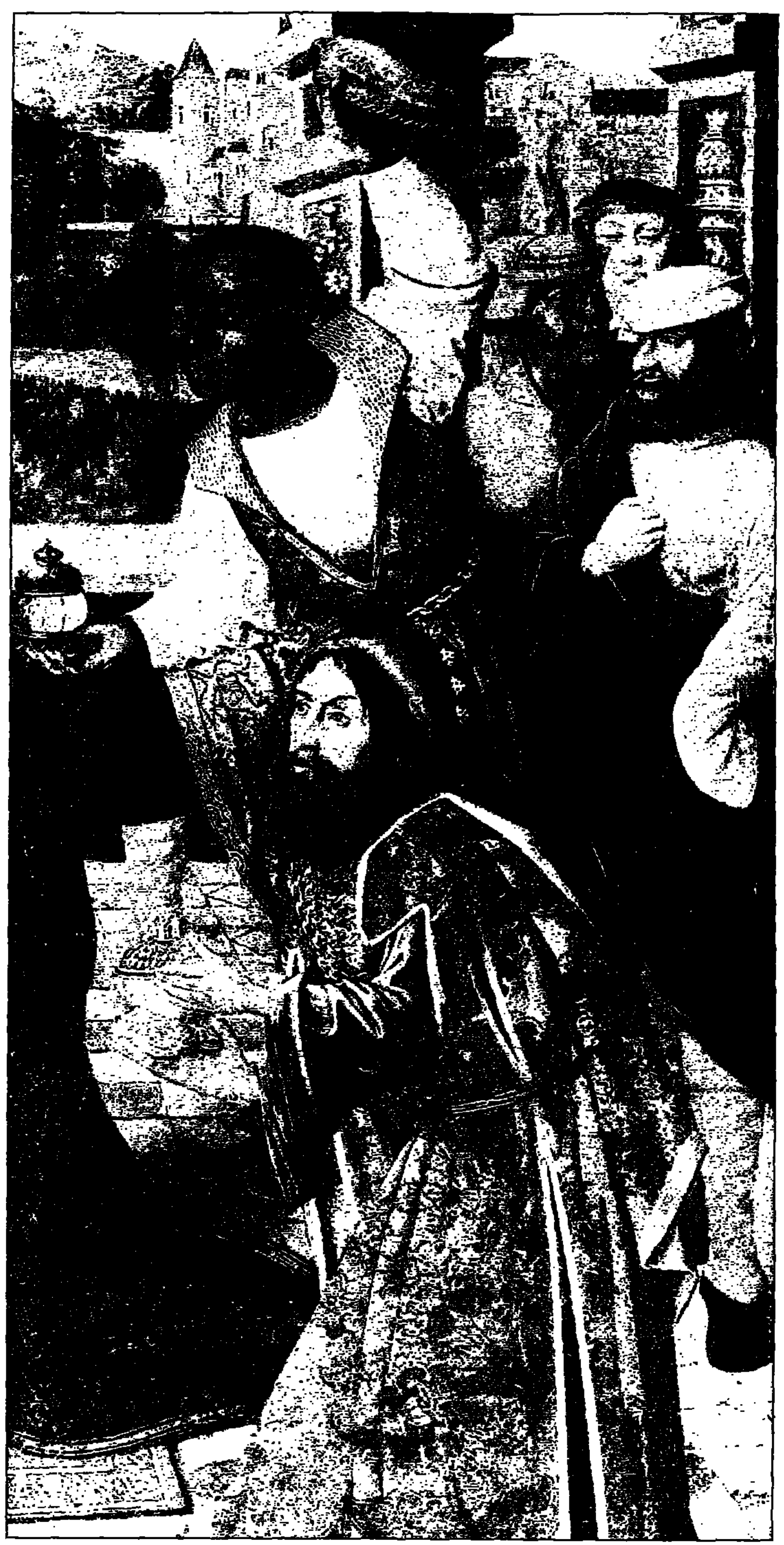
EDUARDO CHILLIDA: Beautifully installed at the Annely Juda Gallery, new work by the distinguished Spanish sculptor is well worth savouring. Whether using alabaster, steel or pink granite, Chillida's feeling for materials is clear. Some of his most sensuous images are achieved by combining fired clay with oxide. The tension between white and black is irresistible, but Chillida is always an austere artist. Small ink drawings of hands are included here, and they suggest that an involvement with the human figure lies behind Chillida's seemingly abstract work.
Annely Juda Gallery, 23 Dering Street, London W1 (0171-629 7578), Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm; Sat, 10am-1pm, until November 28.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

ST CECILIA'S DAY: St Cecilia is the patron saint of music and musicians, and her day, November 22, has for centuries been the focus of festivals in her honour. The Musicians Benevolent Fund presents its usual fundraising Festival of St Cecilia, which includes a magnificent service in Westminster Abbey sung by the combined choirs of the Abbey, Westminster Cathedral and St Paul's Cathedral (Wed 22, 11am); and the "Royal Concert" in the Festival Hall (Thur 23, 7.30pm), where the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Andrew Davis is joined by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, for a programme of English music ranging from Purcell to Walton, Elgar, Britten and Nicholas Maw.

Meanwhile, a 311-year-old tradition of celebrating St Cecilia's Day in Stationers' Hall, in the City of London, is being revived this year as a four-day *St Ceciliatide Festival of Music*. It opens tomorrow night with the Monteverdi Vespers, and continues with such artists as John Lill, Joshua Rifkin and his Bach Ensemble, the Lindsay Quartet and the jazz pianist Julian Joseph. All concerts are at 7pm, followed by optional dinner.
Festival of St Cecilia: for Westminster Abbey, 0171-636 9106; for Royal Concert 0171-960 4242.
St Ceciliatide International Festival of Music: 0171-589 2425.



The Adoration of the Magi (detail), by the Circle of the Master of Delft, in *We Three Kings* (see Museums)

FILMS

Geoff Brown

LA HAINE (15): Passionate, hard-edged film-making from 28-year-old French director Mathieu Kassovitz, who takes his cameras to the suburbs circling Paris for this electrifying study of disenfranchised youth. After a second-generation Arab youth is beaten in police custody, three teenagers from his estate ride to Paris with a handgun. Not all will return safely. The black-and-white photography has the harshness of a documentary, and the beauty, occasionally, of conscious art.
Gate ♿ (0171-727 4043); **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636); **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772); **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520).

LIVING IN OBLIVION (15): The title suggests some modern Dostoevsky moaning in black-and-white; but this second feature from Tom DiCillo, the director of *Johnny Suede*, offers nothing but laughter. The action unfolds on the set of a low-budget film in New York. The material is overstretched; but an excellent cast, led by Steve Buscemi, keep the jokes coming. One of the year's funniest films.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527), **Panton Street** (0171-930 0631); **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666); **Richmond** (0181-332 0030); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121).

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

THE HOTHOUSE: Did you realise that Harold Pinter was a notable comic actor as well as a dramatist with a unique knack for sinister suggestion? Here he proves himself both with a strong performance as one Colonel Roote, the blustering paranoid in nominal control of a government rest-home where inmates can be quietly murdered by the staff. If you admire his *Birthday Party*, you should enjoy this, for it too dates from the late 1950s and packs a neo-Kafkaesque wallop.
Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, London SW1 (0171-369 1731). Evenings: Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; matinées: Thur, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

TAKING SIDES: Like *The Hothouse*, Ronald Harwood's fascinating new play is in its last weeks and should be caught before it slips away. The subject is the post-Second World War grilling of the conductor Furtwängler, in the view of Michael Pennington's contemptuous interrogator just another cowardly Nazi, but, as brilliantly played by Daniel Massey, a fine soul within whose majestic head regrets, tormenting guilts and confused horrors continue to rattle.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, London W1 (0171-369 1747). Evenings: Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; matinées: Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

DANCE

John Percival

ROYAL BALLET: The long collaboration of Igor Stravinsky and George Balanchine was the highest point of 20th-century ballet. Their early joint masterwork, *Apollo*, returns to the Royal Ballet's repertoire for just five performances, which also include their tiny but perfect *Duo Concertant*. Just why Kenneth MacMillan's facetious little *Sideshow* (also to Stravinsky) should be revived is less clear: it was never satisfactory even with its original cast of Lynn Seymour and Rudolf Nureyev. Ashley Page's *Fearful Symmetries*, to John Adams's score, completes the bill. Zoltán Solymosi and Darcey Bussell are scheduled for *Apollo* on Thursday 23, Saturday 25 and December 14, Irek Mukhamedov and Viviana Durante on November 30 and December 7, when Jonathan Cope replaces Mukhamedov in *Symmetries*.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), 7.30pm, Nov 25, 7pm.

ARTZ WEEK: The Lilian Baylis Youth Dance Company (sponsored by RTZ) has a company platform performance on Friday 24, followed on Saturday 25 by a black choreographers' platform. Earlier, there are three days of workshops exploring Matthew Bourne's new *Swan Lake* for Adventures in Motion Pictures, which continues in the main Sadler's Wells Theatre until November 25.
Lilian Baylis Theatre (*ARTZ Week* details from 0171-278 6563, ext 204); **Sadler's Wells Theatre**, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 ♿ (0171-713 6000), until Nov 25, 7.30pm; Saturdays and Thursdays, 2.30pm.

ROCK

David Sinclair

M PEOPLE: The pop-dance act with the mushroom-cloud hair cut singer (Heather Small), M People can boast a live show to equal any of the "serious" rock heavyweights. They have been on a roll since winning the 1994 Mercury Music Prize with their album, *Elegant Slumming*. The follow-up, *Bizarre Fruit*, is still in the chart a year after it was released, and a revised version, *Bizarre Fruit II*, featuring additional live tracks, mixes and the group's current single, *Itchycoo Park*, is released on November 27.
Albert Hall, London SW7 ♿ (0171-589 8212), Nov 24, 25, 26. Their tour, for which unsold tickets are scarce, runs until December 16.

THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH/THE LIGHTNING SEEDS: A neat double-bill for fans of unashamed pop tunes with a light coating of indie credibility. The Beautiful South are still capitalising on their successful greatest hits album, *Carry On Up the Charts*, while Ian Broudie's Lightning Seeds, who only played their first gig a year ago, continue to reap the fruits of their breakthrough third album, *Jollification*.
Cardiff International Arena ♿ (01222 224488), Nov 20; **Wembley Arena**, Middlesex ♿ (0181-900 1234), Nov 21, 22; **Sheffield Arena** ♿ (0114 256 5656), Nov 23, 24; **G-Mex**, Manchester ♿ (0161-832 9000), Nov 25, 28; **NEC**, Birmingham ♿ (0121-780 4133), Nov 27; **SECC**, Glasgow ♿ (0141-248 9999), Nov 29.

Dave Hemingway of successful Beautiful South, and friend

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

TURANDOT: For the first time within living memory Puccini's unfinished opera is being sung in English — in William Radice's new translation — by one of the national companies. People who hum along with *Nessun dorma* may be surprised to learn what a thoroughly sinister piece it is, an unsettling mixture of communal sadism and ink-black humour. Having failed (mercifully) to secure the anodyne Hockney staging from America, the English National Opera have borrowed Christopher Alden's probing, bang-up-to-the-minute production from the Welsh National Opera. The Viennese soprano Sophia Larson makes her British debut as the ice princess, trumpet-toned Edmund Barham sings Calaf, and Janice Watson is the doomed slave-girl Liù. David Atherton conducts.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300), Wed 22, 7.30pm. ♿

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE: When audiences are tired of the *Barber* they are tired of life, and the English National Opera's latest revival of Jonathan Miller's production is lively enough to keep any hint of a yawn at bay. Jane Glover's crisp, buoyant conducting is the perfect springboard for a fine cast led by Jean Rigby's dizzy Rosina. Alan Opie's experienced Figaro and Charles Workman's much more than workaday Almaviva. Great fun.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300), tonight, Fri 24, 7.30pm. ♿

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◩ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **ABUNDANCE** Maryam d'Abo and Myriam Cyr play mail-order brides struggling to survive the rigours of 1860s Wyoming. From Pulitzer Prize winner Beth Henley.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (0181-741 2255). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat Sun, 5pm ♿

■ **BRUISES:** 1994 Verity Bargate Award winner by Judy Upton, author of *Ashes and Sand*, seen here last year. Behind the net curtains of a South Coast boarding-house a drunken father is passing an inheritance of violence onto his son. Jane Howell directs.
Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Now previewing, 7.45pm. Opens Nov 21

☐ **THE COUNTRY GIRL** Strong and subtle performance by Corin Redgrave in Clifford Odets's drama of love, drink and marital protection. Kika Markham plays the supportive wife.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm ♿

◩ **DEAD FUNNY** Belinda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comics and some of their fans.
Savoy, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm ♿

■ **EDDIE IZZARD** The quirky comedian returns for another season of surreal musings on life.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7.30pm ♿

☐ **HOBSON'S CHOICE** Leo McKern in the title role in Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. Nichola McAuliffe and Graham Turner excellent as daughter and son-in-law.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm ♿

◩ **THE HOLOCAUST TRILOGY** Julia Pascal's three plays, unrelated save for the common theme of Nazi persecution. *Theresa*: disgraceful behaviour in the Nazi-occupied Channel Islands. *A Dead Woman on Holiday*: a Jewish survivor working at the Nuremburg Trials. *The Dybbuk*: classic drama relocated to a 1942 ghetto.
New End, New End, Hampstead, NW3 (0171-794 0022). Tue-Sat, 8pm. All three performed Nov 21 and on Sundays, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm. Until Dec 10 ♿

◩ **KING LEAR** Warren Mitchell tackles the big one in Jude Kelly's production down from Leeds. With Trevor Bader as Gloucester, Michael Cashman as Albany and Maria Miles as Cordelia.
Hackney Empire, Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 2pm and Nov 19, 26 and Dec 3, 6pm ♿

The Shakespeare Revue features Janie Dee

■ **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC** Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Sondheim's Swedish charmer. Judi Dench, Patricia Hodge, Sian Phillips and Lambert Wilson among the stars shining in the night.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm, next on Nov 30. 40 day seats on sale, from 10am, 2 per person

◩ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing inspector, and Edward [illegible] and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

■ **JOLSON** The highs and lows of the singer with a monster ego. Brian Conley belts out the songs enjoyably, and Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler.
Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2pm ♿

■ **MACK AND MABEL** Jerry Herman's musical set in early Hollywood. Fine songs, though a troublesome book. Starring Howard McGillin and a delightful Caroline O'Connor.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **THE MASTER BUILDER** Peter Hall's cosy version of Ibsen, with Alan Bates, Gemma Jones and newcomer Victoria Hamilton.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

☐ **ONE FLEA SPARE** Fascinating play by Naomi Wallace set in plague-stricken London where an assortment of trapped people break social and sexual boundaries. Top class acting.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm

◩ **PRISONER CELL BLOCK H: THE MUSICAL** Dreadful musical version of the trash TV show. With Lily Savage.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm

■ **RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB** Jonathan Harvey's touching, well balanced play about emotional turmoil in a group of twenty-somethings.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 4pm ♿

◩ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE** A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe, Malcolm McKee.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm

◩ **SON OF MAN** Dennis Potter's story of the life of Christ (Joseph Fiennes), religious rebel. Strong acting, good design, unclear purpose.
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Nov 25, 7.15pm, mats Sat 2pm ♿

☐ **STRIKE** Strong and searing dramatisation of an extract from Hubert Selby's celebrated novel *Last Exit to Brooklyn*. Powerful stuff.
BAC, Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tonight, 7.30, Sun, 5.30pm ♿

■ **THREE TALL WOMEN** Maggie Smith, Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who withered his childhood.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **VIVAT! VIVAT REGINA!** Janet McTeer and Barbara Flynn play the queens in Robert Bolt's now old-fashioned drama of the rivalry between Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots. Roy Marsden directs.
Mermaid, Puddle Dock, EC4 (0171-236 2211). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 2pm and Sat, 3pm ♿

LONG RUNNERS

■ **Buddy** Strand (0171-930 8800) ◩ **Communicating Doors** Gielgud (0171-494 5520) ☐ **Dead Guilty** Apollo (0171-494 5070) ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner** Duchess (0171-494 5070) ■ **Five Guys Named Moe** Albery (0171-369 1730) ■ **The Importance of Being Earnest** Old Vic (0171-928 7616) ◩ **Indian Ink** Aldwych (0171-416 6003) ■ **Les Misérables** Palace (0171-434 0909) ■ **Oliver!** Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **Sunset Boulevard** Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ◩ **The Woman in Black** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

LA HAINE (15) See Critics' Choice, above

INSTITUTE BENJAMENTA Slow, enigmatic doings in a school for servants: a beautifully crafted live-action feature by animation specialists the Brothers Quay.
Everyman ♿ (0171-435 1525) **ICA** ♿ (0171-930 3647)

KASPAR HAUSER (18) Absorbing if low-key account of the German youth who became a pawn in 19th-century German politics. With André Eisermann, directed by Peter Sehr.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

◆ **THE SCARLET LETTER** (15) Sex and guilt in 17th-century Massachusetts, a long way from Hawthorne's novel. With Demi Moore, Gary Oldman and Robert Duvall. Director, Roland Joffe.
MGM Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

TOMMY BOY (PG) Can idiot boy Tommy save his dad's auto parts factory? Tiresome low-brow comedy with Chris Farley and David Spade; director, Peter Segal.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **A WALK IN THE CLOUDS** (PG) Vacuous 1940s romance with Keanu Reeves as a returning soldier who finds a new life in California's vineyards. Director, Alfonso Arau.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY (12) Best-selling romantic tosh given the kid-glove treatment by director Clint Eastwood, who co-stars with Meryl Streep.
MGM Panton Street (0171-930 0631) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **CLUELESS** (12) Life and empty minds of Beverly Hills teenagers. [illegible]
MGMs: Fulham Rd ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **CRIMSON TIDE** (15) Antique heroics in a nuclear submarine, with Gene Hackman and Denzel Washington. Director, Tony Scott.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

FARINELLI (15) The life of an 18th-century castrato. Lots of opera, hair and clothes, but Gérard Corbiau's film only scratches the material's potential.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148)

◆ **FRENCH KISS** (12) Dizzy Meg Ryan gets entangled with French rogue Kevin Kline. Charmless romantic comedy, directed by Lawrence Kasdan.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JADE** (18) Nasty, [illegible] thriller about the ripples caused by a millionaire's murder, with David Caruso, Linda Fiorentino and Chazz Palminteri. Director, William Friedkin.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

LAND AND FREEDOM (15) Ken Loach's powerful Spanish Civil War drama, with Ian Hart, Rosana Pastor.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772)

◆ **PANTHER** (15) Hurtling rose-tinted drama about the rise of the Black Panther movement in the 1960s. Mario Van Peebles directs.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

Julie Andrews revived in *The Sound of Music*

◆ **THE NET** (12) New technology, but enjoyable old thrills, with Sandra Bullock as a computer expert in peril. Director, Irwin Winkler.
Odeon Mezzanine ♿ (01426 915683)

◆ **POCAHONTAS** (U) Strangely dull slice of American history: a backward step for Disney cartoons after *Aladdin* and *The Lion King*. With the voices of Mel Gibson and Irene Bedard.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

IL POSTINO (U) Michael Radford's heartwarming delight about a simple man opening his eyes to poetry. Wonderful performance by the late Massimo Troisi.
Metro (0171-437 0757) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366)

THE SOUND OF MUSIC (U) Thirtieth anniversary revival of the musical marshmallow, with Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer and some ravishing Alpine scenery. Director, Robert Wise.
Plaza ♿ (0171-437 1234)

◆ **TO DIE FOR** (15) Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **TO WONG FOO THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, JULIE NEWMAR** (PG) New York drag queens charm the mid-West. Cosy comedy drama, with Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes and John Leguizamo. Director, Beeban Kidron.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **UNDER SIEGE 2** (18) Die Hard on a train, with an inexpressive star (Steven Seagal), a grinning villain (Eric Bogosian) and much tedious action. Director, Geoff Murphy.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

WHEN NIGHT IS FALLING (18) Canadian lesbian drama with a good heart but too much fancy whimsy. Writer-director, Patricia Rozema (*I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*).
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

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STEVEN HARVEY

The new uniform for Brentwood: top designer, but reactions from pupils have been mixed

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Sir Hardy Amies, who created the new uniform, pictured celebrating 50 years in Savile Row

The young Amies at Brentwood (c. 1920) in his quasi uniform

Continued from Page 1

as the Battle of the Buttons. For the onlooker, this is high comedy: an intriguing collision of the rarefied world of *haute couture* with the humdrum concerns of school life.

The masters are learning to grapple with a new language. They talk with a slightly dazed expression of "toiles" and "flat" greys and the merits of the box jacket over the blazer. They even attempt to explain, with not a great deal of success, why four buttons on a jacket (sorry, *coat* is the correct word) are "in" and three are "out".

The man responsible for bringing Savile Row to Brentwood is the new head, John Kelsall, who arrived there two years ago. In some circles, he is considered a dangerous modernist. Old Brentwoodians, as one of his colleagues explained, do not favour change. There have been dark mutterings about the abolition of the tuck shop, the redecoration of the musty old corridors in one wing and, above all, his introduction this term of the new school uniform, which has been designed by the guru of Savile Row: Sir Hardy.

The reasons for changing the uniform, the head says, were practical and economical, as much as aesthetic.

The boys' uniform, he believes, was both uncomfortable and old-fashioned since it was last updated in 1945. In the winter months, it consisted of a roomy grey-and-white tweed suit with only two buttons ("A very American idea, apparently," one teacher told me, just stopping short of rolling his eyes) and two flap pockets. In the summer months, the parents had to fork out for an additional uniform of flannels and a blazer. Now there is only one suit for the whole year: exquisitely tailored in charcoal-grey wool, tapered legs and waistline, and the requisite four buttons, which no less groovy a designer than Paul Smith is favouring this year.

The girls' uniform has been more of a problem. Brentwood opened its doors to girls six years ago. They now make up 30 per cent of the pupils. Their old uniform was a very ordinary blazer and skirt. The chief virtue of the latter, according to the girls, was that it could easily be converted to a mini — which is, of course, one of the reasons why their head wanted to change it.

"The skirts were, in my view, ungracious," Mr Kelsall says. "They were tight and — oh, I don't know what the term is — pencil-like. You see, I'm learning. And, if I may say so, common."

Sir Hardy has created a look from a rather more elegant era than our own: an A-line skirt which can be worn at five different lengths — all *below* the knee — belted, as a deterrent to the skirt-hitchers, with a neat boxy jacket which should sit on the waist, and an extravagance of five buttons. He, too, is tired of tight skirts. "We are going for movement around the knee," he tells me. "Then it's pretty and flattering. I've said, rather rudely, that I'm sick of bums."

There are two principal difficulties with his bum-free new design. One is that its cut and swing and understated elegance dates back to a time when Barbara Goalen, not Kate Moss, graced the covers of *Vogue*. You can guess which of the two models today's girls style themselves on. And in order for it to look right, it has to fit right.

But, of course, as I pointed out to Sir Hardy, most parents buy their children clothes that they can grow into: good value is more important to them than high style.

The views of what looks attractive can differ drastically from generation to generation. At my school, the prefects from a previous decade were involved in the design of the new school uniform. Their "modern" suit was a disaster: a hideous, bucket-shaped skirt which was no boon for the average schoolgirl's backside, and a shapeless double-breasted jacket. The suit it replaced, with its nipped-in waist and mid-calf fitted skirt, had the allure of vintage Chanel.

The Prefects' Revenge was good news at least for the women who ran the school's second-hand clothes shop. We used to beg them to tip us off whenever the old girls' cast-offs came in.

The Brentwood boys and girls were not consulted about their new uniform. Mr Kelsall, who clearly takes his uniforms seriously, tried that route when he was the head of another school, and found it got him nowhere.

"There was so much variety, so many suggestions, but no consensus at all," he says. "If I'm absolutely honest, one or two parents here thought I should have consulted more widely. But I didn't regard changing from a grey check to a plain grey as a momentous decision that would change the whole ethos of the school."

But what do the pupils think?

In a high-ceilinged room, next to the headmaster's study, I spoke first to the girls, who sashayed and spun to show me their new, ladylike ensemble. They, as is to be expected in teenage schoolgirls, are not wild about it.

Some of the girls have reacted to the new skirt lengths by wearing them as *long* as possible, in an ironic two-finger salute. But the diehards are still finding ways to shorten them, either by taking up the hems, which is forbidden, or by folding them — with extreme difficulty — over their narrow belts.

"They say we look like Christmas trees because of the triangle skirts we wear," says Linda, a fourth year, whose ear lobes are decorated with a pair of tiny, probably illegal, musical notes.

Amy, a first year who is swamped by her new uniform, pipes up: "I think we look like Mary Poppins, and the skirts are a bit like something out of *Grease*. You know, the show."

Louise, a Princess Grace lookalike, says: "I understand what the designer is trying to do. He wants to give the whole school a more upper-class look. Before, all the uniforms around here were the same. We're, like, individual now."

Is there anyone who prefers the new uniform? Silence. Then: "Most want to be like everybody else," says one brave fourth-former, which seems to sum up the girls' view.

Now the boys troop in. What do they think of the new design? "Quite nice. Better than the old one," says Joseph, a second year, whose blue, unblinking eyes shine through his spectacles. "My Mum says that the four buttons are a bit *weird*. I mean, most suits usually have three, don't they?"

Do the boys know anything about the designer, I wonder.

"Hardy Amies?" says Jonathan, an ebullient second year with a quick, cheeky grin. "I don't know who that is." I explain. "Oh my God," says Jonathan, looking shocked. "And he designed *these*!"

Jonathan has been asked to pass on some comments from his classmates. "My friends don't like the buttons," he says. "They look a bit . . . not very fashionable. My friends also don't like the button-down collars because they're awkward when you have to take your tie off for PE."

"When they come to redo it," he continues, with impressive determination, "I think they should go to some shops and look at different designs. They are probably too expensive, but you could copy the styles and use different material. No one would know."

Are you saying that Sir Hardy, the doyen of clothes designers, should have gone down the High Street to do his research? "No offence meant to Sir Hardy," Jonathan says swiftly.

In Sir Hardy's time at Brentwood — 1920 to 1927 — there were no girls and no uniform as such. The boys were allowed to wear any kind of suit, so long as it was dark and had an Eton collar. The ties had to be black. Anything patterned, however discreet, was called a "rowdy tie" and was immediately confiscated.

"There's a not unattractive picture of me at the school — with my jacket incorrectly buttoned," Sir Hardy tells me in his office in Savile Row, away from the clanging bells and smells of school dinners at Brentwood.

Why was that? "Because I didn't know any better. My dad was a three-button boy who kept only the middle one buttoned up. Which is, of course, the correct way."

I ask him whether he looks back on that time with affection. "Yes, I was what is called 'happy' at school," he says. "It makes me laugh now, but I dropped tears when I walked through the dormitory and thought 'This is my last day'. Which is why I'm absolutely delighted to have been involved with the uniform. I feel a sense of gratitude to the bloody place."

The girls I spoke to at Brentwood were all in favour of uniforms, and sounded spookily like the pro-uniform parents at my children's school. The boys, interestingly, were unanimously against.

Mr Kelsall, a passionate pro-uniformist, told me about his daughter's school, a girls' grammar in Bournemouth, which had experimented with dropping the uniform for a term in the sixth form.

"Within three weeks she had totally exhausted her wardrobe. 'Dad,' she said, 'I now understand why it is a tremendous advantage to have a uniform — because you're not identified as a type.'

"The pupils actually voted to have the uniform back."

Sir Hardy is also pro-uniform: "It puts everybody on a level — And, I hope, on a high level.

I wonder whether he may start a trend. Could designer school uniforms become a thing of the future? Regulation 10in-platforms by old girl Vivienne Westwood? Bustiers over blazers by old boy Jean Paul Gaultier?

"I don't want to have nightmares, dear," says Sir Hardy.

Cover picture
by STEVEN HARVEY

SCHOOLS WEEK IN THE TIMES

Starting Monday, a five-day series no parent can afford to miss

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Ruth Gledhill joins in an ancient Jewish ritual in a London house

Sunset heralds the sabbath

ON A higher floor of a once Georgian house, sadly rebuilt in the 1970s, a ritual was taking place that had changed little for centuries. The service to welcome in the "Shabbat Bride" and to greet the sabbath angels, said to accompany everyone as they return home from the synagogue, has its roots planted firmly on Mount Sinai when God gave Moses the fourth commandment, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy", placing it before the injunctions against murder, adultery and theft.

Although the service ran on an Orthodox pattern, few of the 100 students present were strictly observant. Many had had little Jewish religious education beyond their *bar mitzvah* at 13 if men, or coming of age at 12 if women. The Hillel foundation in Endsleigh Street, central London, set up earlier this century by the B'nai B'rith First Lodge of England and subsequently adopted by the Jewish Grand Lodge, aims to support young Jews when they leave school and enter higher education.

Britain's Jewish community is losing large numbers daily through assimilation, and students are most vulnerable. Hillel, by launching *shabbatons*, Friday night services followed by sumptuous community meals which are heavily subsidised and easily affordable on a student budget, is attempting to address this.

I sat screened off from the men with Joanne, the wife of Jonathan Dove, Chaplain to Jewish Students in London, and their numerous little Doves who flew happily around the synagogue as the service began. This was before the assassination of Israel's Prime Minister, and there was then no sense of threat to a universal sense of peace in the community as well as the service. Since the shooting, the students have become more determined to maintain a dignified unity against any threats to the progress of peace in Israel and the Middle East.

As Jews rarely speak the Hebrew name of God out of respect, throughout the service we referred to *Hashem*, Hebrew for "the name", except when praying. We opened with Psalm 95: "Come, let us sing to *Hashem*, let us call out to the rock of our salvation," proceeding to a rousing and emotive rendition by all present of the *Lechah Dodi*, the beautiful 16th-century song to the sabbath which is one of the most popular hymns in Judaism.

We said the *Shema*, which must be recited twice daily and begins: "Hear, O Israel: *Hashem* is our God, *Hashem*, the One and Only." This was the most important part of the service, being a dedication to the beliefs intrinsic to Judaism. The *shema*, according to the commentary printed in our prayer books, represents complete acceptance of God's sovereignty, and a total subordination of our personalities, possessions and our very lives to His will.

Remaining standing, we then said the *amidah*, or silent devotion, which should be said loudly enough to hear yourself but should not be audible to others. "He sustains the living with kindness, resuscitates the dead with abundant mercy, supports the fallen, heals the sick," we said softly.

Jonathan Dove preached and we finished with *Exalted be the Living God*, a song summarising the 13 principles of Jewish faith listed by the medieval Spanish rabbi Maimonides.

As we left, I meditated on the sabbath angels which I supposed were now following me home. According to the Talmud, the collection of early Jewish writings based on the Law, of these two angels one is good and one is evil. If the lights are kindled and the table set at home, this augurs well for the future and the bad angel has to say "Amen". If these duties have been neglected, the bad angel ensures they will remain so the following week. Two hundred miles later, I was relieved to be welcomed home to a brightly lit fire and a table set for a feast.

B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation,
Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DS.
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AT YOUR SERVICE

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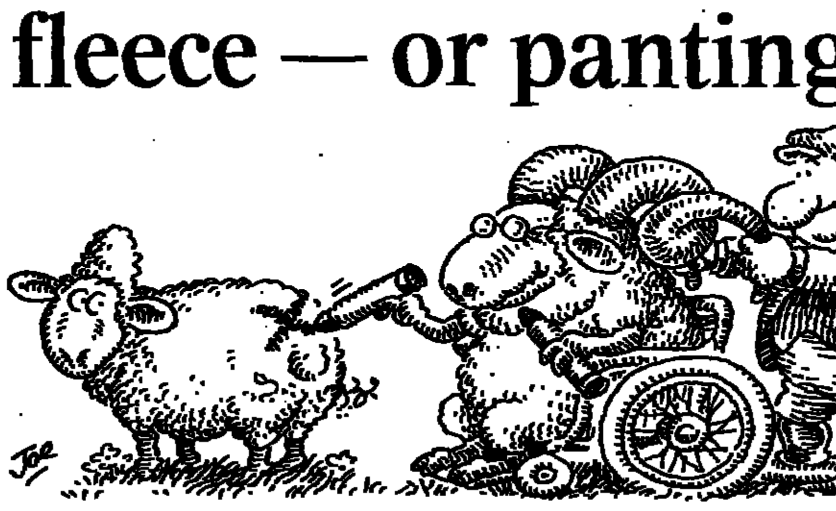


FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

I wandered lonely as a cloud, that floats on high o'er vales and hills, when all at once I saw a host, a host of golden — *sheep!* I looked again. Some kind of disease, perhaps. But gold wool?

I know that the European Community is quite generous with its sheep subsidy at the moment, and if you have a decent-sized flock you can well rub your hands in glee; but for the actual sheep to turn into gold seems to be stretching it a little far.

To my great regret, it was not Midas who had laid a finger on the flock — it was the ram who had been touching them up.

It is that time of year when the old man (who normally lives with only a pony for company, and he can't reach her) gets his fling around the flock.

He has been with us since we started farming here and, although the years have treated him well, he is not quite as certain on his feet as he used to be.

His annual visit to the ewes has more the atmosphere of a slightly randy Saga holiday than the frenzied Club Med experience. Nevertheless, he has left some good crops of lambs in the past, so it seemed worth giving him this one last go.

So we armed him, as usual, with his raddle and crayon. This is a leather harness which fits around his chest and carries a lump of coloured wax.

The theory is that when he covers the ewes, his crayon leaves a mark on the ewe's rump (may I, at this point, just break off to repeat what I have said before: to all wives of wandering spouses: no, they don't make one to fit husbands).

The mark that the ram leaves is useful to the shepherd, because he knows which ewes were covered, which have remained untouched, and, by changing the colour of the crayon to coincide with the ewe's reproductive cycle of 16 days, he can spot ewes which are repeatedly being served but not getting in lamb. So far, so good.

But the problem this year has been the warm weather. Apart from a couple of frosty nights, we have been living in a permanent mid-September for what seems like months now.

Every living thing is confused; the trees have turned the colour of their leaves presumably because they sense Christmas is coming and they ought to do something, but they don't seem to have done so with any urgency. They certainly have not yet bothered to shed any leaves.

We still have mangel-wurzels in the ground, unharvested, quite happy and still growing — in mid-November! In previous years we have been nervous about leaving them in the field until the third week in October, in case the frost gets them. No worries this year.

The horses are perplexed too, having grown thick coats when the shorter days started to arrive. They now stand, sweating, wondering who turned up the heat. It truly has been a crazy autumn. Farmers with cattle already yarded worry that the steaming beasts will be prey to disease; while the other week in Oxfordshire, I saw a chap making silage. They will be getting the barbecues out again soon.

And it is because of the heat that the sheep have turned to gold. The crayon which the ram carries in his harness comes in two grades; "mild" or "cold". The mild ones are made of harder wax, for use on the more hospitable lowland farms, where the temperatures are likely to be higher than those on hill and mountain farms, which opt for the cold crayon.

One year, I got caught out and fitted mild crayons during the coldest November on record and had to get out my magnifying glass. If you looked closely at the sheep's rear, you could just make out the slightest hint of a coloured blur, but you had to get indecently close.

Thereafter, I have always used cold; you can go round the ewes spotting the blobs of colour as clearly as ink-blots on a child's maths homework.

Except that this year, having bought cold crayons again, I now find the weather has been so mild that every visit from the ram leaves behind enough wax crayon to keep a primary school supplied.

I have tried telling him to be a bit more careful, that these things are expensive; but, as any teacher will tell you, it takes some time before a pupil learns how much paint to put on the brush.

Resigned to giving him a new crayon every few days, I thought no more about it until I read a report that said geese were going to be in short supply this Christmas.

According to goose producers, the ganders were so overcome by the heat during the summer months that they were unable to do their duty to the best of their abilities. They were simply in too much of a sweat and couldn't perform.

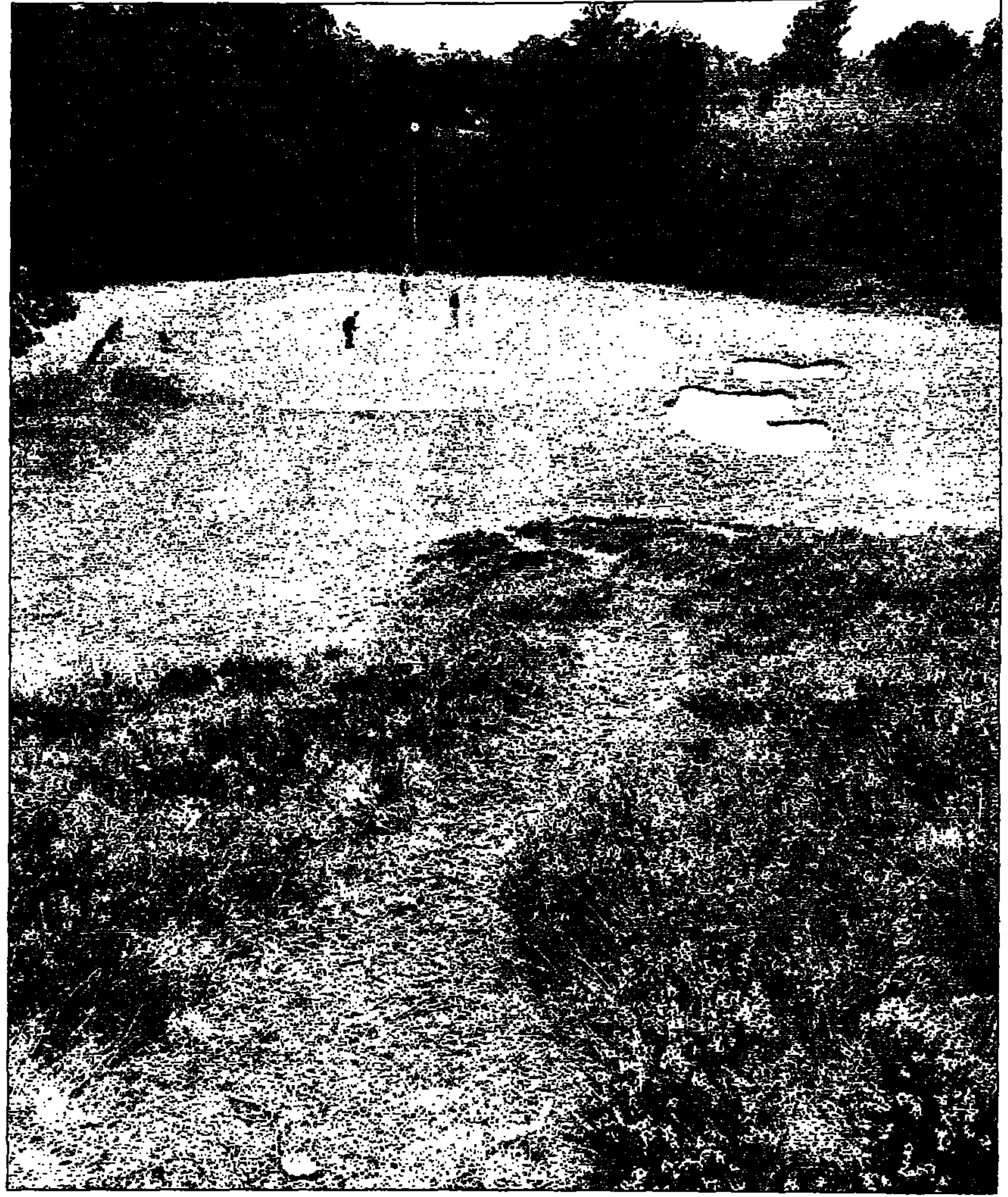
Is the ram having the same problem? Is it the case that the overheated and aged ram finds that, once he has performed his duty, he is so out of puff that he has to stay where he is, flopped, till he gets his breath back?

Is that why the crayons are wearing out so fast?

The view from the fairways is looking more environment-friendly

How green is your golf course?

STEPHEN BOULTON / ASSIGNMENTS



Ipswich Golf Club's 250 acres have returned from being bracken-infested, boggy turf to natural heathland and woodland

High up a tall sycamore's trunk are the neat round holes of a woodpecker: greater spotted, green or lesser spotted: they are all to be found here, as are tawny owls and sparrow hawks. In the spring, on a patch of recovered fenland, grows the twayblade orchid, distinguished by its delicate flower and the twin leaves that open at its base.

Near by, the heather scrubland so characteristic of the Suffolk coast is home to the silver-studded blue butterfly, now restricted to a few protected sites such as this. Welcome to Ipswich Golf Club.

The club is the first winner of a new annual competition to find the golf course that has excelled in environmental planning. Organised by Amazone Ground Care, in conjunction with the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service and the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), the competition, and its £5,000 prize, are an indication of how seriously the industry is starting to take "green" concerns.

If it seems paradoxical that Amazone, part of whose business is selling machines to spread fertiliser, should be involved in such a venture, Rod Baker, its managing director, explains: "It is in no one's interest to apply chemicals unthinkingly. In the long term, not only will you damage the environment but you will destroy your course."

He added: "Ecological considerations aside, it doesn't make economic sense. There must be less damaging ways to control our environment."

More than 300,000 acres of land in Britain are dedicated to golf, and in the past five years more than 1,800 planning applications were made for new courses. Golf's image — of electric green fairways and courses that use as much as six million gallons of water a day — has not been environmentally friendly; but all that may now be changing.

Stephen Noye has been course manager at Ipswich for more than 15 years, and under his care the 250 acres have returned from being bracken-infested, boggy turf, damaged by years of over-watering and over-fertilisation — with greens often unplayable for four months of the year — to the natural heathland and woodland that is described in the area's lease in 1646.

"Our starting point is the golf course," says Mr Noye, "and we want to make the course sympathetic to its surroundings. There is no point in fighting nature. The trouble is that many of the species we are after, especially the bent and fescue grasses peculiar to a links course, are very delicate, and so we take particular care of what we have."

> ‘There is no point in fighting nature’

But what makes an environment-friendly golf course? Robert Taylor, a grass expert at the STRI, stresses the importance of careful management.

"More than a third of total course acreage is deep rough, and at present much of that is barely managed at all; if the land is merely left alone, many less hardy species will be lost when the more competitive species come to dominate."

Many conservation sites are managed in the same careful way as golf courses could be, and even the Council for the Protection of Rural England, in general cautious about recreational land use, admits that a golf course can regenerate degraded land.

According to the Golf Research Group, an independent body, golf courses spend on pesticides a fifth of what farmers do; the Pesticides Trust agrees that use on British courses seems fairly limited. Mr Noye dislikes pesticides, very rarely resorting to approved herbicides to get rid of bracken. "If we spray once a year, we have failed," he says.

Mr Noye's regime of regeneration is slow but steady, and has involved working closely with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, which made detailed surveys five years ago.

In the central woodland section, a six-acre lake, at least 400 years old, has been restored, as has an ancient hazel coppice. Two trails have been marked, through oak, holly, birch and hornbeam, and leaflets are available to highlight the varied species to which they are home.

It was partly this concern for areas of the course not under play that led the judges to their decision. The prize will be spent in part on propagation units for delicate heather seedlings so that the restoration of the heathland can continue.

"Most members don't concern themselves with what we're doing," says Mr Noye, "but almost by osmosis they appreciate that they have a nicer environment to play in: and then they see a deer, or a bird, or a butterfly — and it gives them a lift."

David Stubbs is the executive director of the European Golf Association's ecology unit, set up by the PGA, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and the European Golf Association in 1994: "The main golfing bodies have come to appreciate the environmental high profile of the game; the issues have to be tackled in a pro-active way."

As well as working with championship courses such as Valderrama in Spain, the unit has pilot scheme sites at smaller courses such as Linlithgow in West Lothian — highly commended in the green golf course competition.

The contest yielded more than 60 entrants, and it seems that across the country golf clubs are making an effort to restore and maintain the natural landscapes out of which their greens emerged.

Though few courses take the completely organic approach of Millbrook Golf Club in Ampthill, Bedfordshire, there are at least 130 courses on Sites of Special Scientific Interest or conservation areas. Embleton Links in Northumberland, for instance, is home to both Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Course and the grey partridge, an endangered species.

Mr Noye believes golf clubs such as these can play an important part in environmental education. "When I was a boy, I just went out into the countryside: now I would not let a child round the corner to the shops. Here we have a safe and beautiful area where kids can get that kick-start to appreciate the beauty around them."

ERICA WAGNER

Snow golf, page 17

Trapped by nature's fickle hand

Feather Report

THERE was a report in the journal *British Birds* recently of the strange death of a goldcrest in Cumbria. This tiny bird, with its brilliant orange crown, had been trapped in a burdock plant by the hooked seeds. These are the brown seeds that cling to your clothes if you brush against them at this time of the year. The goldcrest had not been able to escape from their clutches, and had died there.

It was unlucky inasmuch as the bird had wandered away from its usual haunts, which are the branches of conifer trees. Sometimes a pair of goldcrests will take up residence in a solitary cedar or a great silver fir in a garden and, as Lord Grey of Fallodon put it years ago in his book *The Charm of Birds*, "each tree becomes a whole world to them".

Grey has a good description of the goldcrest's song, which can be heard in the conifers, even in winter on sunny days: "Like a tiny stream trickling and rippling over a small pebbly channel, and at the end going over a miniature cascade".

However, the correspondent in the journal also reported that he had found two goldcrests caught in spiders' webs in the same area, so perhaps the goldcrests in that part of Cumbria are particularly accident-prone.

In addition, there was a report of a swallow in Germany that had been caught by its wings in a burdock, which is even more surprising. The goldcrest might have been looking for insects, but the swallow must simply have hit the plant when flying low. It was suggested that the swallow, with its weak feet, could not lever itself out. Yet a flock of greenfinches nearby were perching on the seed heads and extricating the seeds without any difficulty.

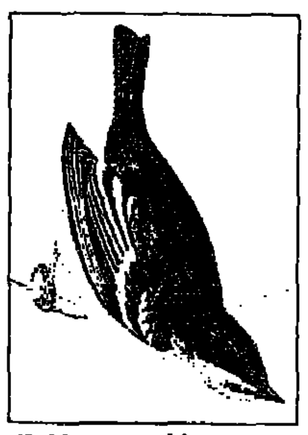
However, the swallow was luckier than the goldcrest. The people who found it took it out and cleaned it up, and it swept away to join other swallows feeding over the Rhine.

Incidentally, if you should look this report up in *British Birds*, you will find that it is about a "barn swallow". Do not be puzzled. This is the new, official ornithological name for our common European swallow. *British Birds* has been discreet in adopting new names, but this is one it has accepted. The problem is, that with ornithology becoming so international, an extra description seemed necessary to distinguish our swallow clearly from all the other swallows in the world.

Birds can get caught in other ways. There is a record of a song thrush being entangled in thorns on a blackberry bush, where it was eaten by a cat. A more bizarre fate befell a garden blackbird, which got its wings caught in the network of symmetrically arranged twigs in a mock orange tree.

The feral pigeons in London have another problem. Wandering about as they do on pavements and in gutters, they have a tendency to get bits of thread and cotton twined round their legs, which then get tied together. This chafes their legs and makes it hard for them to walk, and sometimes they will even lose a leg.

The writer Naomi Lewis goes round London with a small pair of scissors especially to help them. She has become expert at spotting pigeons in this plight, pouncing on them, picking them up, and cutting them free.



Goldcrest: accident-prone

Many of the pigeons in Trafalgar Square and other parts of London are almost indistinguishable from the rock doves of the Scottish sea cliffs, and are descendants of rock doves, who had a different kind of escape early in this century.

Rock doves were brought down in baskets by train from Scotland and used as sporting targets at the Hurlingham Club in southwest London. They were released from boxes with collapsible sides and shot at from 25 yards range. They were liked for the sport because they were so quick and lively on the wing, and many got away; but they stayed on in London. The practice came to an end only in 1910 with the passing of the Captive Animals Act.

There used to be a story going round in shooting circles of one bird that rescued itself in its troubles. This was the story of a woodcock which was supposed to have broken its leg, and bandaged it by its own efforts. It was said to have been found with blades of grass and narrow rushes neatly wrapped round the fracture, and the whole thing set in a plaster of mud.

It is possible that someone out shooting found such a bird. But I am afraid that, if so, the woodcock had just dragged its wounded leg along behind it and picked up grass and mud which had hardened on to it.

Birds can be very resourceful at times. But the woodcock which gave itself first aid must be retired, I fancy, to the realm of myth.

DERWENT MAY

● What's about: *Birders — the number of ducks, such as shoveler, teal and wigeon, is building up on lakes and reservoirs. Twitchers — Arctic redpoll can be spotted along the east coast from Shetland to Norfolk. There is a late Pallas's warbler at Littlehampton, West Sussex. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p a minute at all other times.*

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How to put your lilies in the pink

Now's the time to plant the bulbs. **Stephen Anderton** tells you how

Lilies of the field, or those symbolising some sad-eyed Madonna, would have you think butter would not melt in their trumpets. The truth is, lilies are swaggerers to a bulb. Nature made them to stick their heads up above the crowd of ground-hugging flora, and they are only too happy to swank it up in big pots. Showy pots in prominent places. Pots by your door.

Now is the time to buy lily bulbs. Make your choice and pot them quickly, because they hate to sit around shrivelling in the dry air. Use moist compost and put them somewhere cold. You have only to look at a plump bulb to see why this is so. Lily bulbs are not smoothly encased, like daffodil bulbs. They are formed of overlapping scales, which clasp together. When they are dry, the scales part and the bulb dries.

If you split lilies in the garden in spring, they will have plenty of roots attached, but those bought dry rarely have this advantage. They have shrivelled or been rubbed off in transit.

I pot lilies in a mixture of composts. Although they prefer cool, moist conditions at the root, they hate being waterlogged. In a pot, extra care is needed to create good drainage, so I mix one-third peat-based compost, with one-third strong, soil-based compost, such as John Innes No. 3, and one-third coarse grit or gritsand. I add a little bonemeal, which is a slow-release fertiliser that lasts throughout the season. You could just as well use encapsulated slow-release fertilisers, which leak their goodness for a specified number of weeks.

One of my neighbours brings on lilies for her huge hallway in green, glazed Chinese jars, and at the foot of her staircase they look wonderfully Pre-Raphaelite. She chooses tall lilies, of 4ft of more, and that means using a big pot.

If you want lilies to go on from year to year with the same strength, they need enough leaf and root space between each other to develop. A pot 7in across at the top is adequate for a single bulb, but for three the pot should be 10in, preferably with a broad bottom for stability. Plastic pots are suitable if the drainage is properly maintained.

The bulbs need to be set about halfway down the pot, with 3-4in of compost on top. Some species and their varieties are stem-rooting types, and these need at least 4in of compost above the bulb to build up strength for next year. Ensure the compost stops 1 inch from the rim of the pot, so that you can water generously when the bulbs are in full growth.

I grow lilies in pots, especially the perfumed *Lilium regale*, to stand outside the front door in summer. They spend the winter potted and frost free in an unheated greenhouse. Once they start to move in spring, they need full light to avoid being drawn up too quickly. An unheated, well-ventilated greenhouse is suitable. When all danger of frost has passed, the pots can stand outside in a sheltered place.

Some I keep under glass to flower earlier, thereby extending their season. I stand them at the front door when the buds are just beginning to burst. The pots are tucked behind the canopy of bushier, sun-loving plants, such as *Pelargonium quercifolium*, to keep their roots cool. Sometimes they will need a support-cane in the pot, but if they have been grown steadily and in sufficient light, support is unnecessary.

When the flowers are over, the seedheads should be cut off to strengthen the bulb, and the pot fed once a month with tomato food until the foliage starts dying down, at which stage water is gradually withheld.

Finally: beware of the lily beetle, which has become a problem in recent years. These voracious, scarlet pests are mostly confined to the southern counties. The beetles and their dirty-orange larvae chomp away on lily foliage, flowers, and sometimes stems. Their campaign begins about Easter and can continue through summer. They are not easy to control chemically, and spraying with permethrin, fenitrothion, and pirimphos-methyl, must be repeated fortnightly, depending on the scale of the infestation. It helps to water an insecticide on to the compost of potted lilies if the beetle has been sighted.

The best control is to squash the marauders on sight, and hunt out any others. Squashing rarely eliminates them from a garden, but it helps to stop them getting out of hand.

Watch out for them, too, on Solomon's seal and fritillaries, large and small varieties.

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Plant or move roses. Mail-order roses may have dry roots and should be soaked for about an hour before planting.*
- *Plant cloves of garlic in light, well-drained soil. Use only plump, firm bulblets, placed 7in apart.*
- *Protect celeriac plants from frost with straw or bracken.*
- *Sow Aquadulce broad beans now for an early crop next year.*
- *Hardwood cuttings of currants and gooseberries taken last autumn can be moved into final positions, after soil enrichment.*

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Beauty and the beasts: voracious scarlet lily beetles like these should be destroyed on sight

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q In Devon I grew *Iris unguicularis*, which flowered madly from December until the end of February. Two years ago I brought them to Southport and planted them by a pond in a fair amount of sun. We have hardly had a flower since. Why? — Mrs M.D. Sharpe, Southport, Lancashire.

A This winter flowering iris is a native of North Africa. It needs all the sun it can get, and excellently drained soil. I suspect your plants are too wet, as well as missing the Devon sunshine. At the risk of disturbing them again, it will be worth lifting them next September and planting them in as hot and dry a position as you can offer.

Q I wish to remove two 6ft conifers which are about 15 years old with trunks 6in across. They are in a narrow bed between the garage and patio. How difficult will the roots be to remove? — M. Pollard, Grimsby, Lincolnshire.

A They will be difficult, but not too difficult. Whatever you do, do not cut them off at ground level first. Cut off all the branches but leave 4-5ft of trunk to give you leverage. Dig to the main roots and cut as many as you can find. Then you can heave away on the trunk until it becomes apparent where that last cursed root lies. Once that is severed, you can pull out the trunk. Most of what is left can be chopped out with a spade. The soil will be very impoverished, and you should dig over down to a couple of feet, and either replace the soil or incorporate plenty of manure or old compost, before replanting.

Q Five years ago I ambitiously tried to achieve a croquet lawn. Nature felt otherwise, and clovers, docks, plantains, dandelions and creeping buttercups came rushing in. I am prepared to leave the clover, but should I dig out the bigger weeds or spot-kill them? Would it help to keep cutting through the winter? — K. Marsa, Leominster, Herefordshire.

A If you have the patience, by all means spot-treat the likes of docks and dandelions with a tiny dab of glyphosate, but be careful not to get any on the grass. Glyphosate is usually effective even in October and November; selective weedkillers are much better applied in spring. Wait until May for best effect. Clover is the hardest thing to get rid of, but the rest should succumb. Do not cut your lawn hard all winter — it will weaken it, and give the weeds a better chance to compete next year. Let it overwinter at an inch long.

● *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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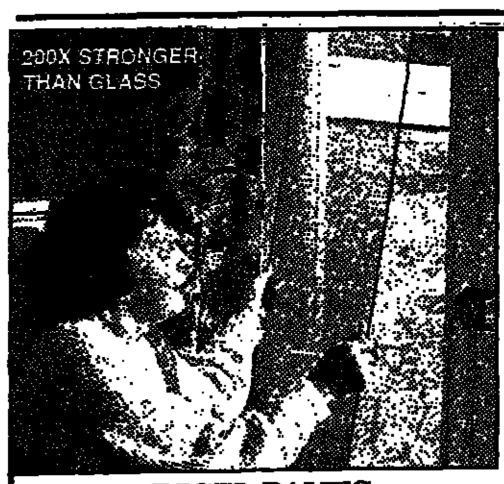

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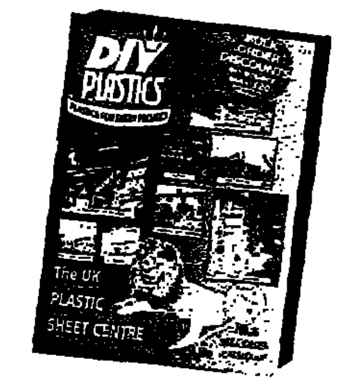

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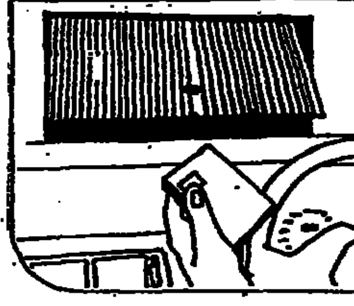

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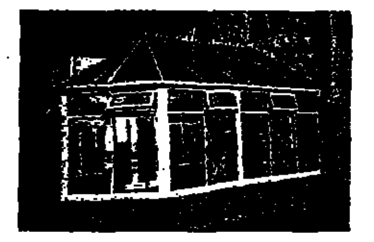

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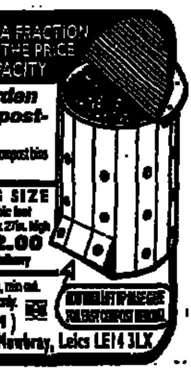

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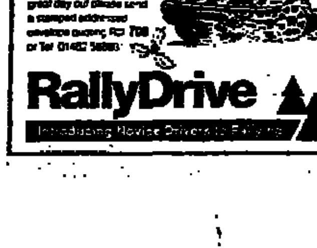

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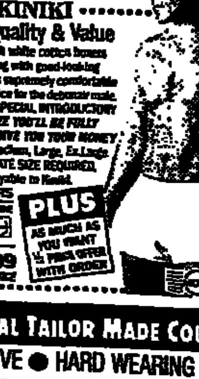

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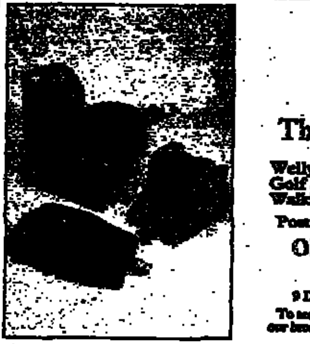

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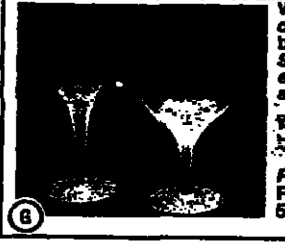

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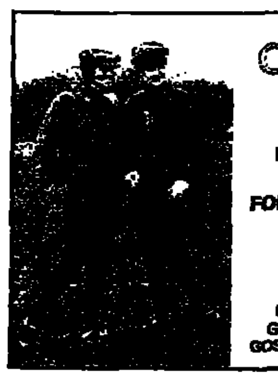

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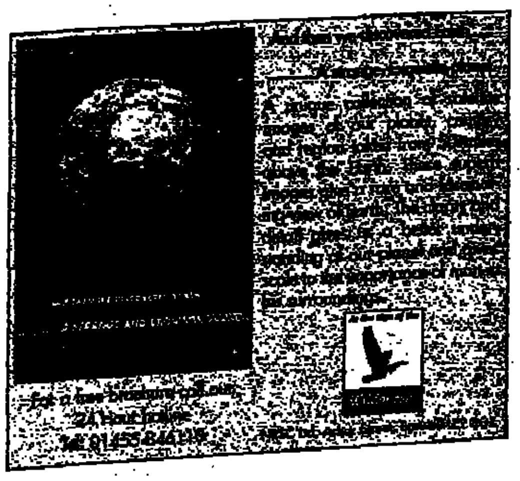

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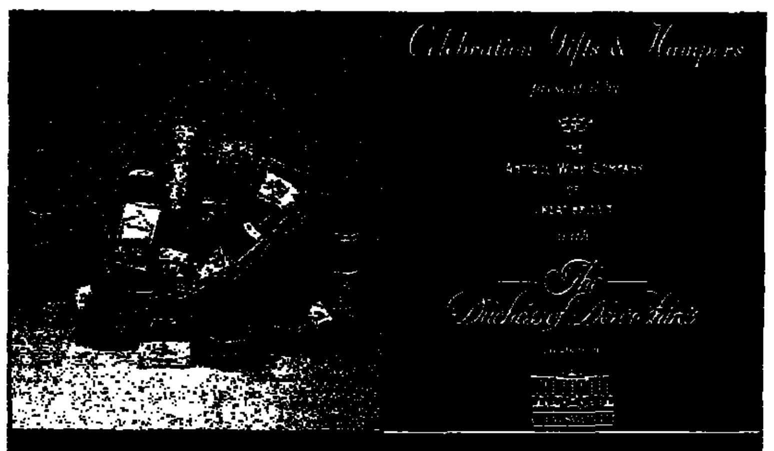

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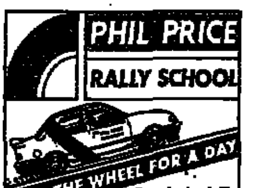

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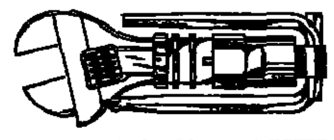

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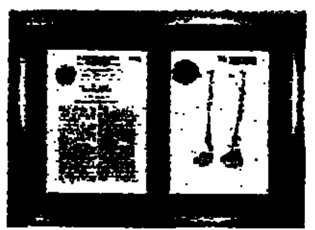

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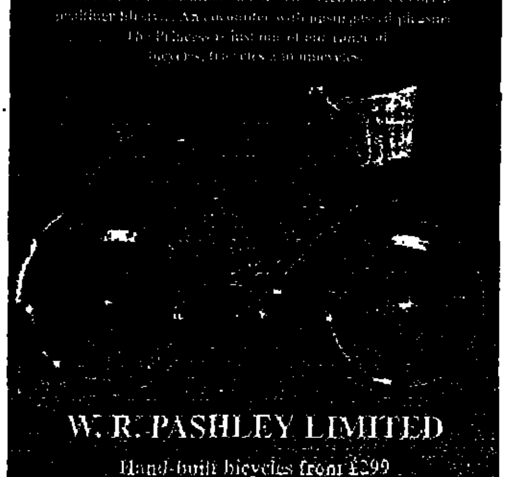

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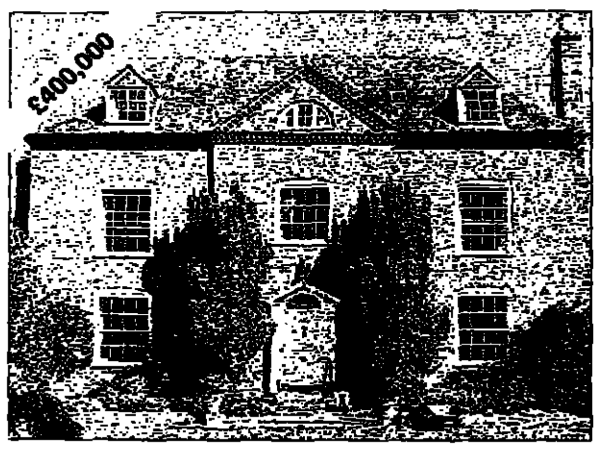

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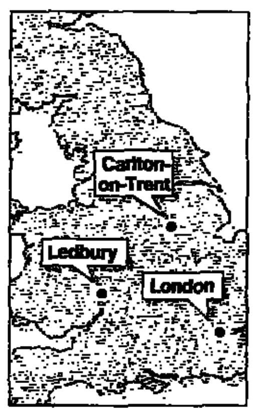

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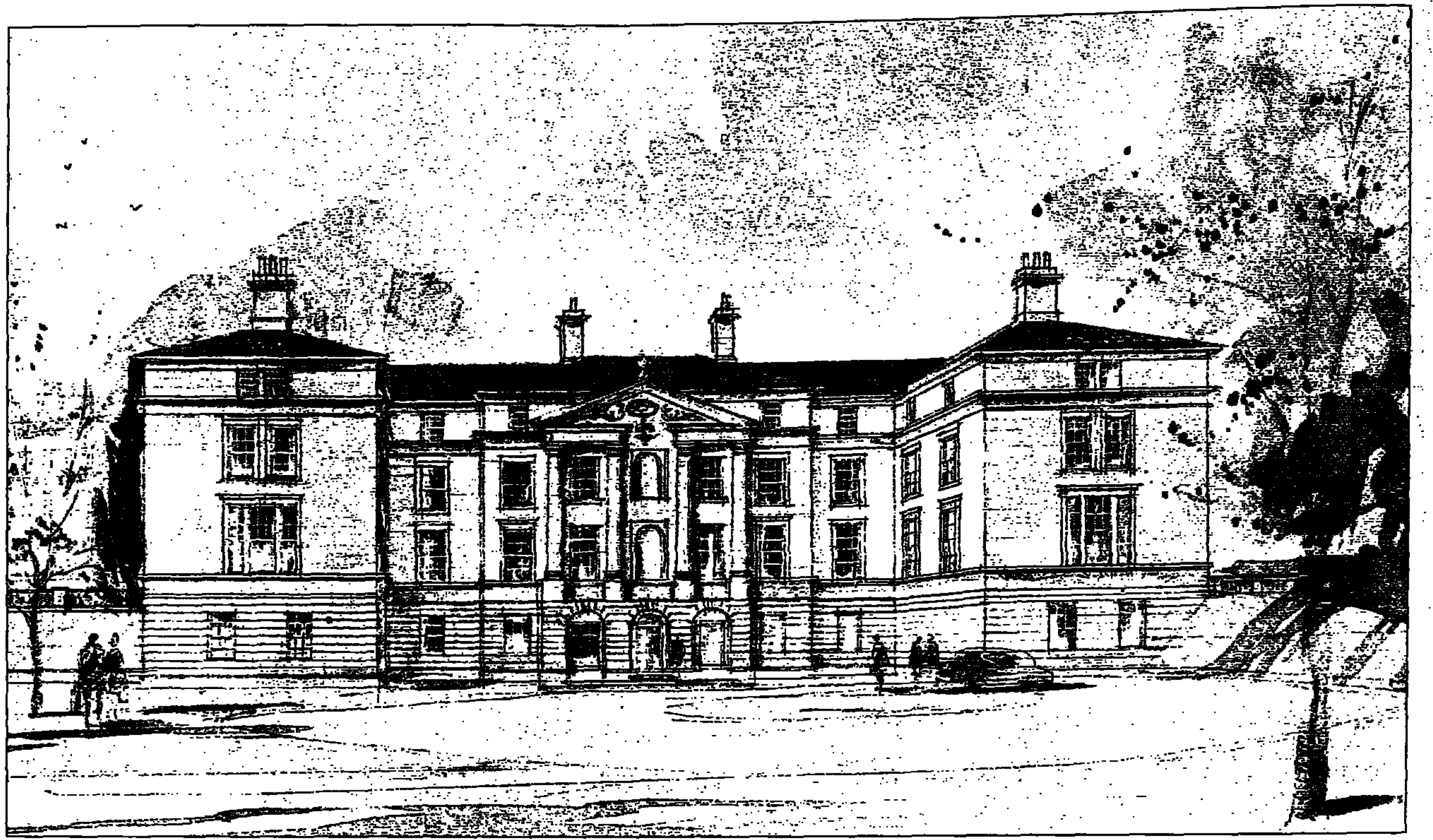
CHERYL TAYLOR

After years of argument, a new development is to go ahead in one of Europe's finest cities



An artist's impression of the southerly elevation of Cavendish Lodge. William Bertram, the architect, says he has adhered to principles of symmetry derived from Palladio

Birth of a classic for Bath?

The first important classical-style building to go up in the Lansdown area of Bath for more than a century and a half has been designed by an architect who has been described as "a modern John Wood", the 18th-century architect. William Bertram's design for Cavendish Lodge, a four-storey block of flats masquerading as a Palladian villa, is being built by Beaufort Homes on a green slope in front of the Landsdown Crescent. This is a stone's throw from the Royal Crescent, which is believed to have been conceived by Wood before being built by his son, John Wood the Younger, in 1767.

The site, alongside Cavendish Crescent, has had to be treated with great sensitivity because Bath, along with Venice and Florence, is one of only three Unesco-designated World Heritage Cities in Europe. The plan is that 20 luxury apartments will be concealed behind Cavendish Lodge's Bath stone porticoes and columns. Twin gatehouses on each side of a private drive will contain two two-bedroom homes. Where Wood might have built a stable block, Mr Bertram has provided covered parking for each flat.

Prices for the 16 two-bedroom and four three-bedroom apartments, each with 26ft drawing rooms, range from £235,000 to £310,000.

Savills, the marketing agent, took reservations on seven apartments within hours of their being launched on the market earlier this month. But it has not been easy for the developer. When building work starts next January, it will be the culmination of a bitter eight-year battle between Mr Bertram and his developers in one corner, and the city council and the Bath Society in the other.

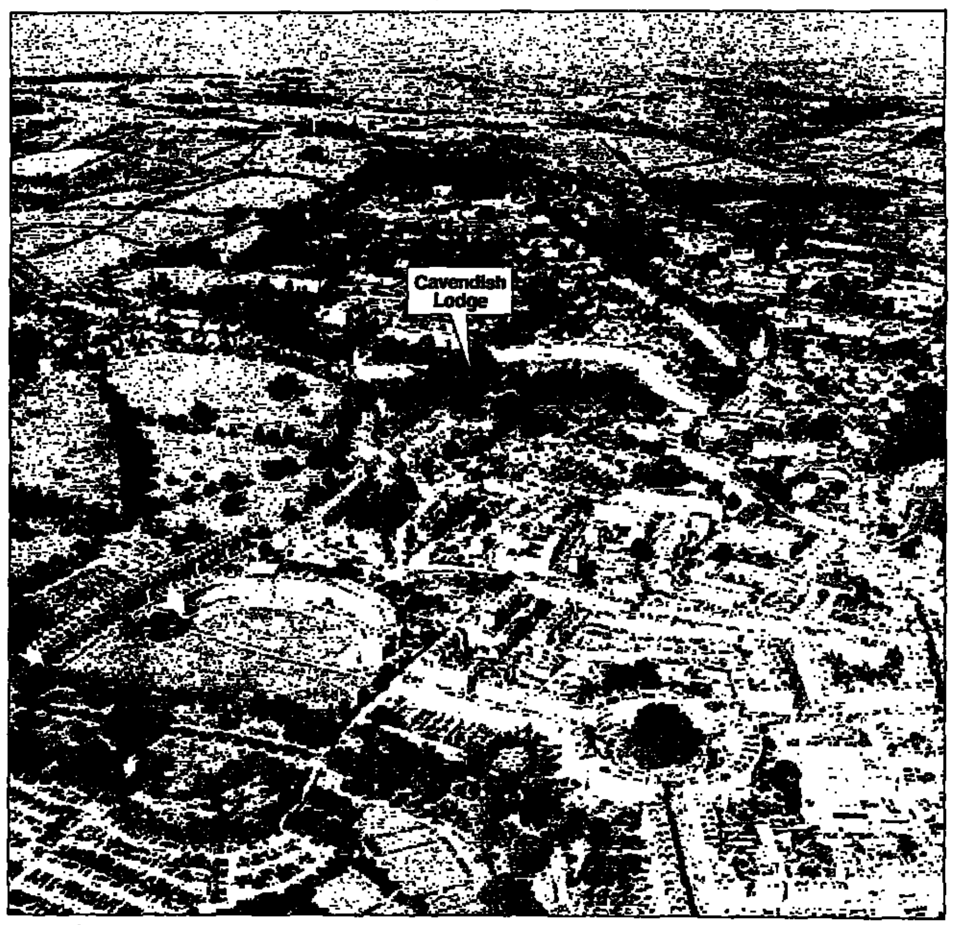
The first round came in 1987 when the council, which designated a part of the T-shaped site as open space in its local plan, refused planning permission for the project. Mr Bertram's team appealed and won planning permission at a public inquiry.

The Bath Society challenged the decision in the High Court, but the court would not overturn planning consent. The society fought on to the Court of Appeal, which in 1991 quashed the decision to allow the development because, it said, proper weight had not been given to preserving or enhancing the conservation area.

It was an important victory because it set a precedent for other historic towns. But celebrations by Lord Raglan, the society's chairman, and Major Anthony Crombie, its vice-chairman, were short-lived. When the application was sent back to a re-opened planning inquiry in 1993, the planning inspector granted permission saying the building's design would have a "positive effect" on the area. Now the council is helping Beaufort to finalise details.

But local opinion on Cavendish Lodge is still divided. Some view it as a barn of a building, in the tradition of huge Georgian mansions — more suited to a 1,000-acre estate than a three-acre site surrounded by Bath's graceful crescents.

Major Crombie said: "The whole thing is tragic because the development of that greenfield site is out of harmony with the 18th and early 19th-century buildings in the landscape setting that makes Bath so internationally renowned. This area has been unchanged since it was created and now someone comes along to put this terrible block of flats right in the middle."



In keeping with Bath's Georgian style? Arrow shows where the scheme is to be built

> ❛ If there has to be a building there, that is the one. The Bertram plan is a very good one ❜

Others are relieved that it is a more sympathetic design for Bath than the stark utilitarianism that characterises most modern development in the city. Even Tim Kirby, chairman of the Cavendish Crescent Residents' Association, which argued against any development, conceded: "If there has to be a building there, that building is the one that should be there. Mr Bertram's plan is a very good one."

Dr Timothy Mowl, the architectural historian who co-wrote the biography *John Wood, Architect of Obsession*, and was for ten years the Georgian Group's southwest representative, said: "There was a small house called Cavendish Lodge on part of the site until the early 1980s and some people argue that it was always intended there should be buildings there because Park Street leads to it.

"The argument is, 'We don't want this building because it's too big for the site, and we don't want the building there anyway'. To my mind, that is ridiculous. The whole point of Bath is beautiful buildings within countryside and if you have only countryside, you don't have Bath.

"Here is a great chance to get a classical building in the late 20th century, the like of which Bath has not seen for more than 150 years, and I'm delighted it's going ahead. I have called Mr Bertram another John Wood the Elder because I felt he's the only architect in Bath who has had a vision of classicism for Bath. Too often, people like him are thwarted."

Visitors who pass through the twin gate lodges of Mr Bertram's "villa" will be greeted by a symmetrical Georgian-style façade bearing some resemblance to Wood's Queen Square north side. Four doric columns frame the entrance. The building's south side will feature sash windows, a slate roof and traditional chimneys.

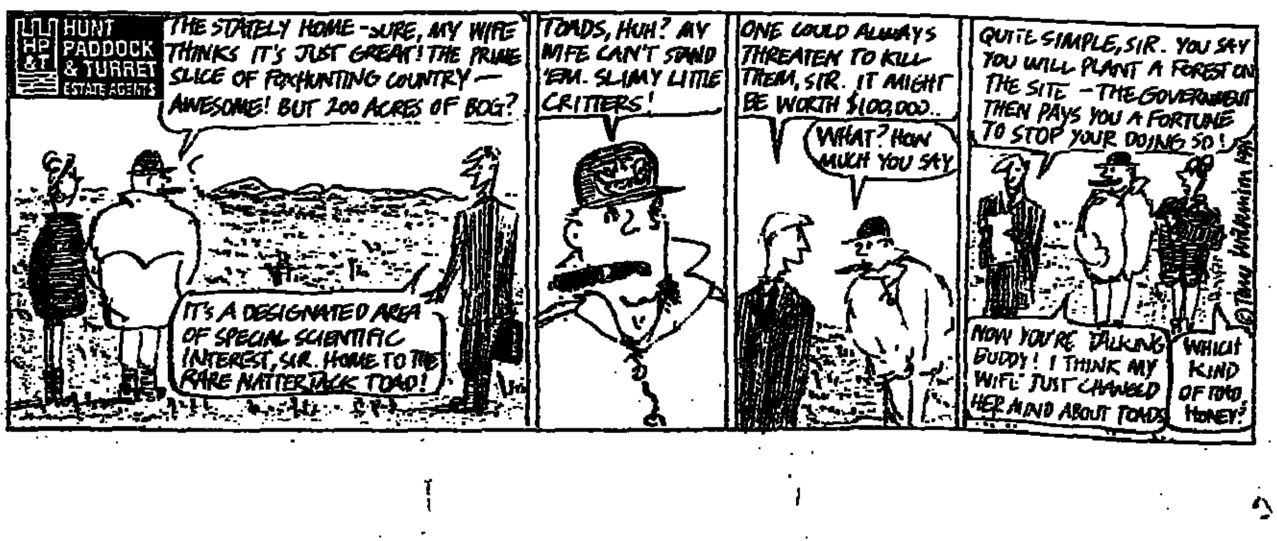
Mr Bertram said: "I visualised it in its present form from day one. John Wood the Elder's inspiration was Andrea Palladio, so that's where I drew my inspiration. I re-read Wood's essays and adhered to *his principles of symmetry* and straight lines.

"I have used rough-cut Bath stone walling for the middle section, from the first-floor window sills to below the attic storey as a contrast to the smooth blocks of Bath stone, known as ashlar. The first place I did that was at Highgrove, Prince Charles's Gloucestershire house, where I designed an extension.

"The finished building at Bath will look exactly like my drawings. I hope it will just melt into the gentle loveliness of Bath."

CHRISTINE WEBB

● *Savills International, 01225 444622*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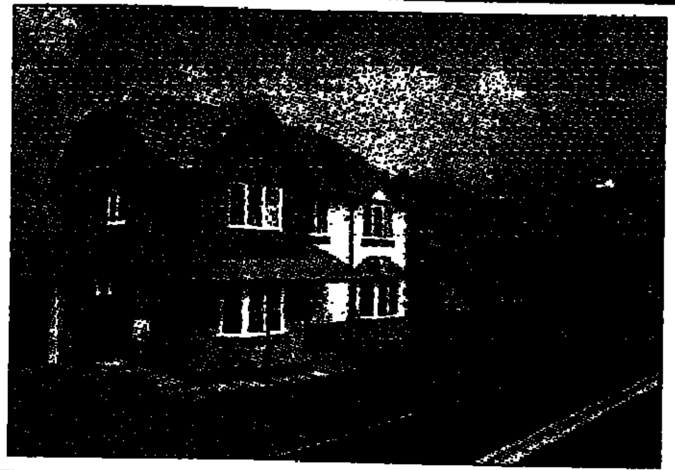

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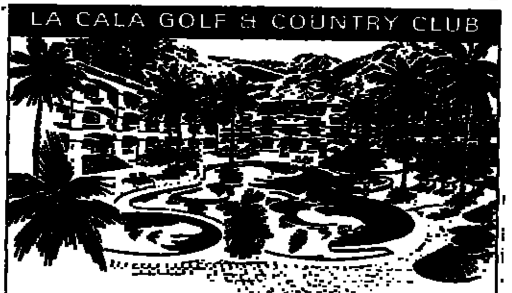

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- ☐ GLOUCESTER (Abbeymead) - from £49,950*• - full range of 2,3 and 4 bedroom homes by Taywood.

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- ☐ ALLINGTON (nr Maidstone) - £89,750 - £122,500* - 3 - 4 bedroom houses [illegible] homes.
- ☐ ASHF[illegible] - [illegible]950 - £104,950*• - 3 and 4 bedroom homes by Taywood.
- ☐ EAST FARLEIGH (nr Maidstone) - £93,950 - £134,950* - 3 and 4 bedroom homes, by Taywood Homes.

LINCOLNSHIRE
- ☐ BASTON (nr Peterborough) - £82,200 - £135,000 - 2 and 3 bedroom bungalows, 2 bedroom cottage style homes, 3,4 and 5 bedroom detached houses by Allison Homes.
- ☐ QUARRINGTON (nr Sleaford) - £53,950 - £129,950 - 3 and 4 bedroom detached bungalows and houses, 5 bedroom detached houses by Chestable Homes.

NORFOLK
- ☐ NORTHWOLD (nr Swaffham) - £46,950 - £89,950 - 2 and 3 bedroom Semi and detached houses, near school in conservation village, Laughton Homes.

NORTH YORKSHIRE
- ☐ PATELEY BRIDGE (nr Harrogate) - £55,000 - £137,500 - 2,3 and 4 bedroom natural stone built houses.

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- ☐ LLANDRINDOD WELLS (mid Wales) - from £63,950 - 3 and 4 bedroom homes by Heathstead Homes

SOUTH GLAMORGAN
- ☐ CARDIFF (Pontprennau) - from £49,950*• - full range of 2,3 and 4 bedroom homes by Taywood

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- ☐ CROYDON (outskirts) - £88,950 - £94,950 - quality 2 and 3 bedroom starter and family homes (assistance schemes available) Clarke Homes.

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- ☐ CHICHESTER - from £92,500 - 3 bedroom houses, 4/5 bedroom 3 storey town houses, 1 & 2 bedroom apartments to be released. Gleeson Homes.
- ☐ NEWHAVEN - £74,950 - £124,950 - 3 and 4 bedroom semi and detached homes. Choice of styles, South Downs Valley location, by Clarke Homes.
- ☐ SEAFORD - £96,950 - £119,950 - 4 bedroom detached quality family homes, favoured area, close to schools, by Clarke Homes.
- ☐ SEAFORD - £124,950 - £237,500 - last release, exclusive 5 bedroom detached homes close to Golf course. Clarke Homes.
- ☐ MAIDENBOWER (nr Crawley) - £49,950 - £174,950*• - 1,2,3,4 and 5 bedroom homes by Taywood.

WILTSHIRE
- ☐ WEST SWINDON (nr Lydiard Park) - £94,950 - £119,950 - 4 and 5 bedroom detached homes, enviable location. Clarke Homes.

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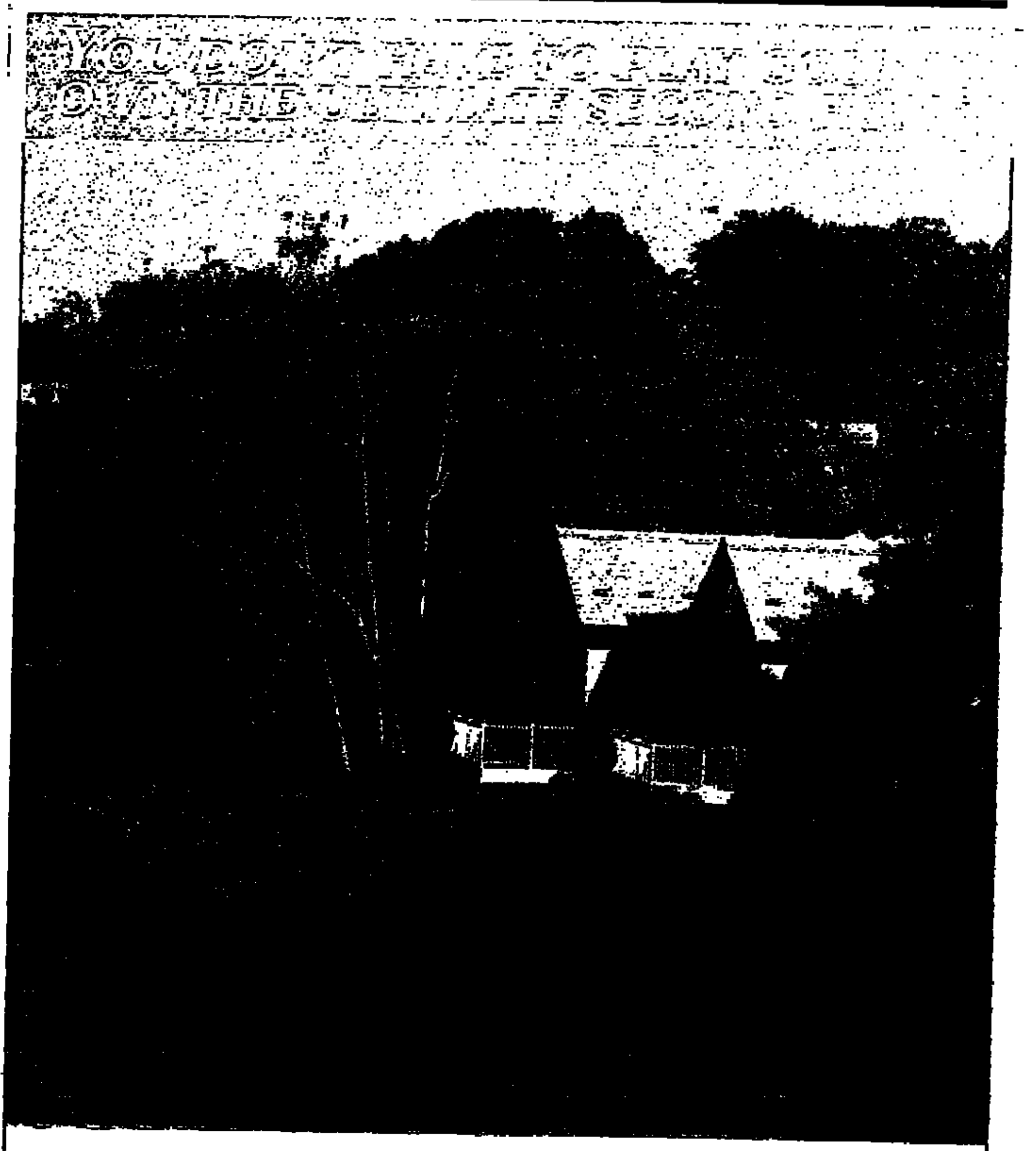

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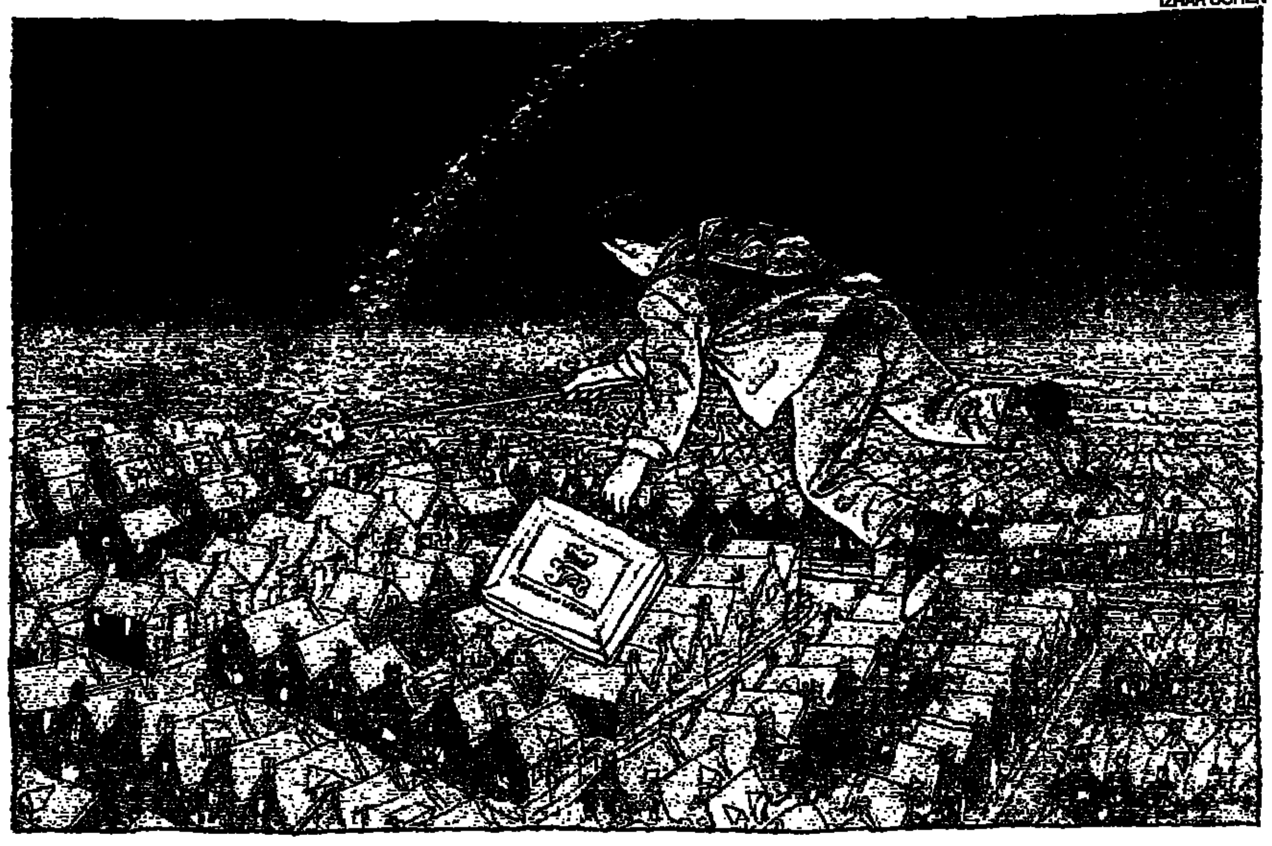
Advice for the Chancellor

Rachel Kelly on what Kenneth Clarke's Budget may bring to besieged property owners and potential first-time buyers


IZHAR COHEN

The battered red box will be opened on November 28, Kenneth Clarke will sip his glass of whisky before parched onlookers in the House of Commons, and this year's Budget will be revealed.

Never has a Chancellor been so bombarded with requests to help the housing market. The Halifax's most recent quarterly house-price index shows a 2.6 per cent drop on last year's figures in all regions of the United Kingdom, with the exception of Northern Ireland. That means that £31 billion has been wiped off the value of homes in London since the boom years of the late 1980s.

Builders, matched only by farmers and motoring groups in their ability to lobby Government, have produced the most comprehensive package. Roger Humber, director of the Housing Builders Federation, believes a £1 billion boost is essential for the market and especially for first-time buyers. He wants people to be given more help towards their mortgage payments through tax relief.

Tax relief on mortgage interest payments should be increased to 25 per cent instead of the current 15 per cent and the threshold raised from £30,000 to £50,000. Interest rates should be reduced and the Government should restate its commitment to home ownership before the next election, he says. David Holland, chief executive of Wimpey homes, agrees.

Nor have the estate agents been slack. Hugh Dunsmore Hardy, chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents, says: "We want the continuation of some form of mortgage support for first-time buyers. We want to abolish stamp duty and capital gains tax on residential property investments and second homes." Buyers pay stamp duty — a tax on sales — at 1 per cent of the selling price of a house above the £60,000 threshold, and calls for its abolition are loud.

In 1988, there were 2.15 million sales a year; now there are about 1.2 million. Experts believe the abolition of stamp duty would help those with negative equity in London and in the South East.

Adrian Coles, director-general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), also suggests abolishing stamp duty and raising the level of tax relief available on mortgage interest payments, and a reversal of the changes to the income-support regulations.

Housing charities are predicting a rise in the numbers of homeless with the introduction last month of new rules on government help for people with mortgages who become unemployed. Since October 2, new borrowers who lose their jobs or become too ill to keep up with their monthly mortgage payments will have to wait nine months to receive any state assistance.

Mr Coles argues for a political solution because he blames the Government for many of the housing market ills. "Uncertainty over jobs, interest rates and government policies have resulted in a faltering market," he says. "CML members have done their bit by cutting interest rates. Now it is the Government's turn."

Most of those who spend their professional lives wrestling with the property market argue that their case is not one of special pleading. The housing market is vital to other parts of the economy such as retailers, the do-it-yourself business and electrical and white goods manufacturers.

Buyers and sellers also feel keenly that the Budget should be used to help the housing market, too.

Backbench MPs have told Mr Clarke of an increasing number of complaints from constituents about housing. At this year's Conservative Party conference there were 200 motions put forward for debate on the economy, of which at least quarter referred to the *housing market.*

So Mr Clarke has no shortage of suggestions of how to help the housing market. Will he respond? Signs from the Treasury suggest not. The view of Mr Clarke and his officials is that the *Government can help by keeping* inflation low, from which low mortgage rates will follow. Economic growth will bring increased income and confidence, which in turn will feed through to the market.

More interestingly, should Mr Clarke respond? On balance, no. Whatever sweetener he might introduce, such as the abolition of stamp duty, for example, will not solve one of the biggest problems that dogs the housing market: unemployment. If people do not have jobs, or feel insecure in those they have, they will not buy houses. The overall economy must be right and general tax cuts, such as income tax, would boost overall confidence.

"The housing market is simply too big for any special *measures to have much of an* impact," says Charles Ellingworth, from the agents Property Vision. "People do not buy or sell a house on the strength of the absence of stamp duty. It is the 'feel-good' factor that counts: job security and positive economic growth."

Moreover, it is questionable whether we should be investing more money in bricks and mortar. The fiscal climate is still biased in favour of home ownership. We must pay capital gains tax on investments at a rate of 40 per cent when we sell. But no such tax is levied when a house which is a main residence is sold. Many have enjoyed spectacular capital gains on their properties and not had to pay a penny in tax on the additional value of the house.

Some economists believe *that the British passion for* home ownership has diverted energy and resources from more productive pursuits such as investing in industry. The market is already distorted by tax subsidies.

The Government would do better by concentrating on the Housing Benefit Bill, which now costs the taxpayer about £11.5 billion a year. Benefit is paid to cover rental accommodation for those who are unable to pay for themselves. Unscrupulous landlords ratchet up the rent, knowing the DSS will pay. Once in the system, claimants have little incentive to take on work which might disqualify them from housing benefit. Peter Lilley is thought to be already taking steps in this direction. In October, he announced measures to reduce the number of claimants.

Cutting the amount paid in benefits and capping rent would free more property in the rented sector to private tenants at more reasonable rents because landlords would *no longer target social security* tenants.

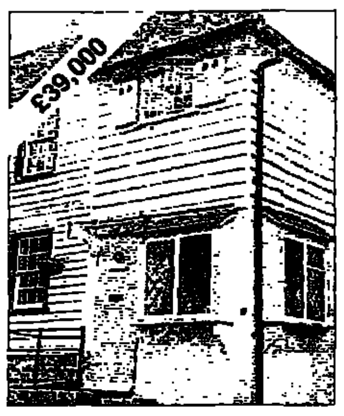
An increase in the number of homes to rent would help to provide accommodation for young people who do not wish to take on the responsibilities of home ownership. Taxpayers *and the housing market* would benefit.

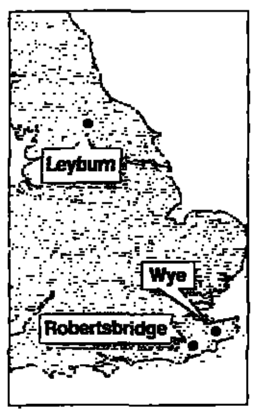
FOR SALE

UNDER £60,000

KENT
17 The Green, Wye, four miles from Ashford.
End-of-terrace cottage in need of updating, with rear garden and views over the village green. Two bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room and kitchen. Gas central heating. About £58,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01227 451123).

YORKSHIRE
Little Holroyd, Preston-under-Scar, three miles from Leyburn.
Stone-built, double-fronted cottage with south-facing front garden, and a rear yard. Two bedrooms, bathroom, living room, kitchen/dining room and dairy. About £49,000 (*General Accident Property* Services, 01969 623451).





SUSSEX
Swan cottage, 32 Fair Lane, Robertsbridge. Grade II listed end-of-terrace house, with rear courtyard, close to the high street. One bedroom with en suite bathroom, living room and fitted kitchen. About £39,000 (GA Property Services, 01424 773333).

CHERYL TAYLOR

WIMBLEDON, SW19

A charming detached house with many original features and a lovely 120ft garden. 6 beds, 2 baths, cloakroom, 2 receps, study/office, kitchen, conservatory, utility room, 2 garages, parking for 5 cars.

Freehold £550,000

WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172

ST. ANDREWS ROAD, W14

An impressive semi-detached house circa 1890, beautifully decorated with a south facing patio garden/parking, 4 beds, 2 baths, 3 clkrms, recep, kit.

(Basement flat is not for sale, being under a separate 99 year lease).

Freehold of the whole building £315,000

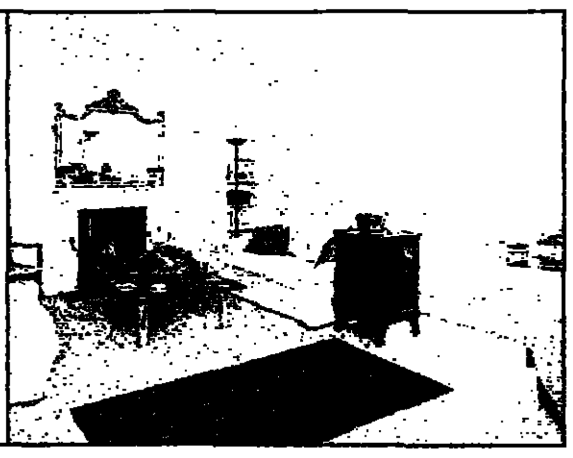
FULHAM: 0171-731 4223

GLOUCESTER WALK, W8

With views over communal gardens from its roof terrace, a well presented third and fourth floor maisonette. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, cloakroom.

Lease to 2081 £425,000

KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705



WATERSIDE POINT, SW11

In a development near Albert Bridge, a house with 3/4 beds, 3 baths, 2 receps, kit, garden.

Acting for the mortgagees in possession, we have received an offer of £315,000. Higher offers must be submitted in writing to us prior to exchange.

Lease to 2112 £355,000

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PRIMROSE HILL, NW3 £950,000

A grand semi-detached Victorian villa of approx 1,220 sq m (4,000 sq ft) requiring some updating, backing onto and with views across Primrose Hill Park. 6 beds, 3 baths, 4 receps, kitchen, store room, cloakroom, large rear garden. Freehold.

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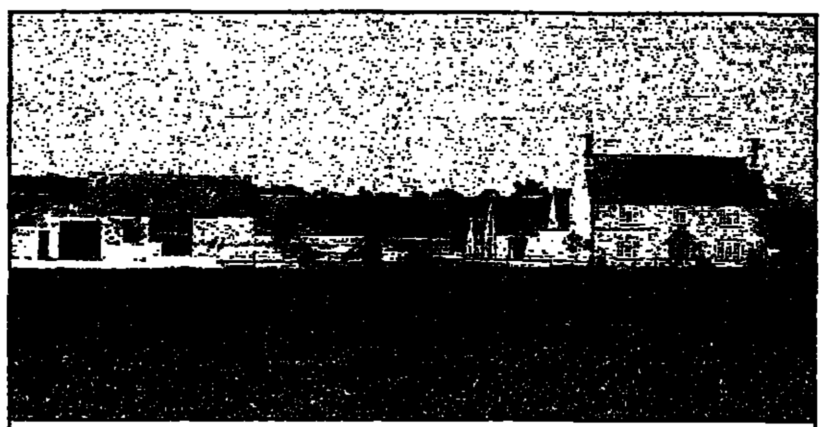


OXFORDSHIRE - Near Stratton Audley For sale as a whole or in 3 lots
An attractive residential farm in an outstanding rural location, about 10 miles from Oxford. 5 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kit/living area. Range of 5 stables, traditional stone barns, modern buildings, grass leys and woodland. About 33 hectares (82 acres).
OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522

HAMPSHIRE Hightown, Ringwood

Set in about 1.4 ha (3.5 acres), a family house built in the 1930's in the style of a period cottage. 4 beds, bath, 3 receps, kitchen, b'fast room, garaging, stabling, manège, gardens, paddocks. JSA: Austin & Wyatt 01425 478786

Price Guide: £295,000

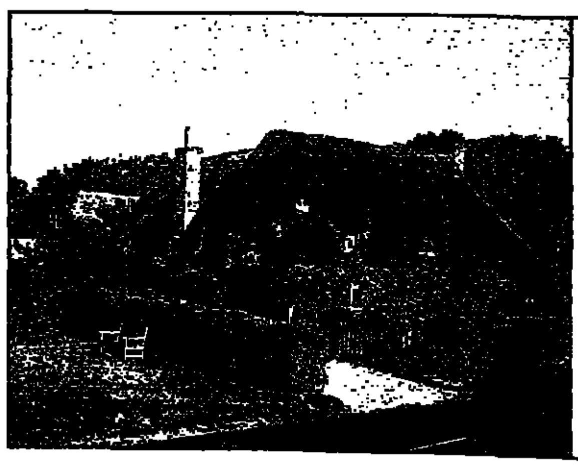
LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

SURREY The Bourne, Farnham

Quietly situated, a spacious cottage with a s/c annexe and a pretty secluded garden of about 0.4 ha (1 acre). 4 beds, bath, shower rm, 3 receps, clkrm, kitchen, utility, conservatory, dble garage. Annexe with bed, bath, recep, kitchen area.

Price Guide: £310,000

FARNHAM: 01252 737115



HAMPSHIRE Longstock

A 16th century listed cottage clad in roses, clematis and wisteria, with a separate barn/annexe. 3 beds, dressing/bathrm, shower, 3 receps, kitchen. Annexe: bed, shower/clkrm, recep/games rm, office. Garage, beautiful gardens, potential paddock. About 0.6 ha (1.5 acres).

WINCHESTER: 01962 863131

WILTSHIRE Near Devizes

An equestrian property with a farmhouse, stabling, outbuildings, land & planning consent for livery facilities. 3 beds, bath, kit, 3 receps, stable block with 10 loose boxes, manège, farm buildings, garden, pond. Up to 10 ha (25 acres) available.

Price Guide: £239,000

CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244

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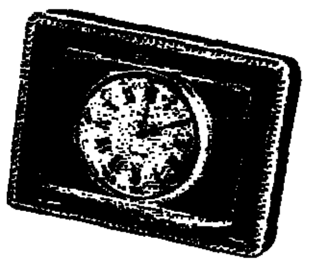
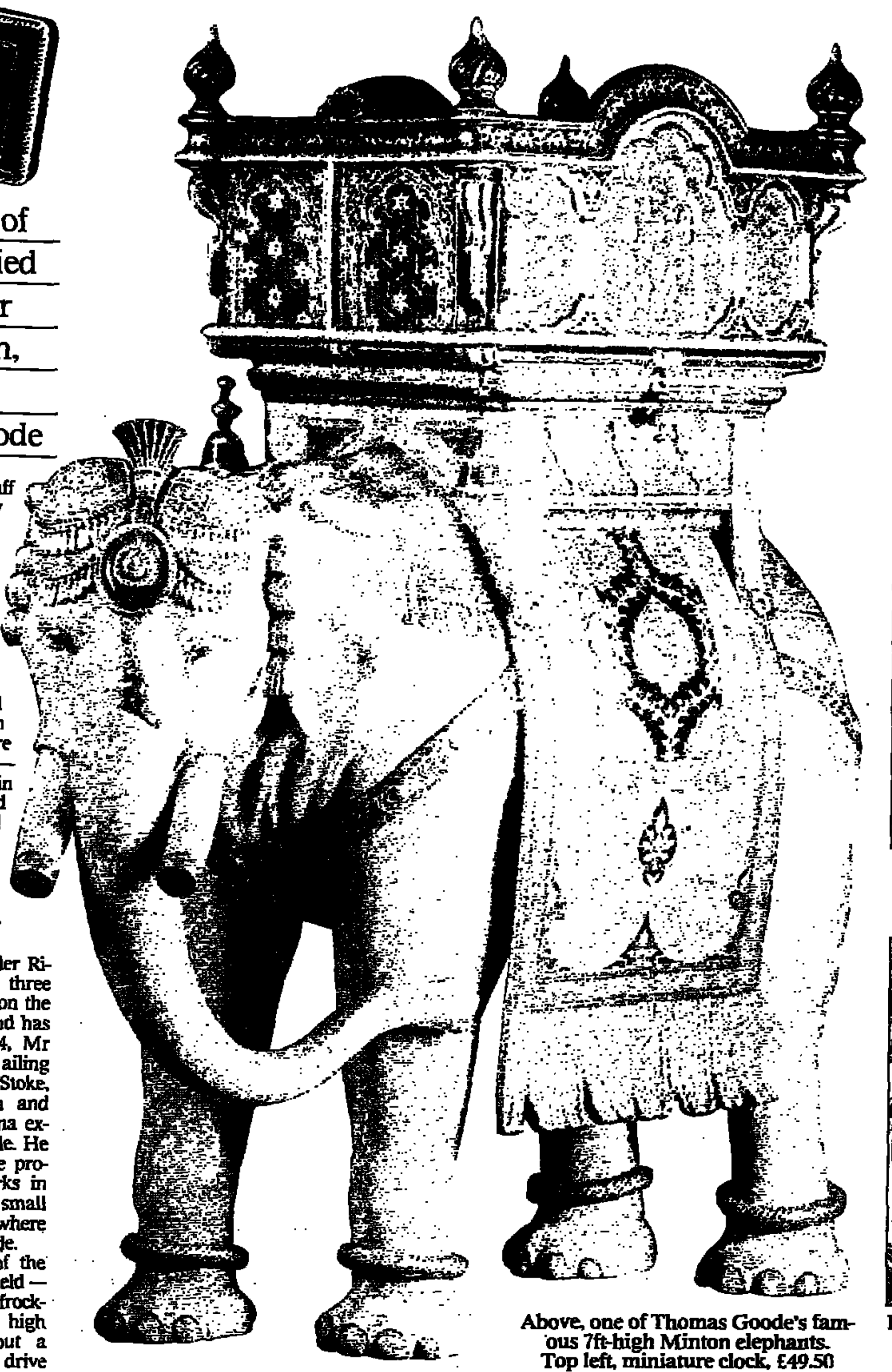
The Goode news for Christmas



For a taste of luxury carried out to your own design, seek out Thomas Goode



Above, one of Thomas Goode's famous 7ft-high Minton elephants. Top left, miniature clock, £49.50

AS A child, I would scuff my way disconsolately up South Audley Street, Mayfair, London, a relucant member of the North Audley Street Brownie pack. The high spot of my brief stint as a Pixie was looking in the windows of Thomas Goode. I was fascinated by the 7ft tall Minton elephants which were then in the windows — and are now preserved in the shop itself — and drawn to the glitter and luxury within. I could not imagine shopping there — but I have grown up, and Thomas Goode, while visibly the same, has changed.

Persian-born Alexander Riahi acquired the firm three years ago when it was on the verge of bankruptcy, and has transformed it. In 1994, Mr Riahi also bought the ailing Caverswall Pottery in Stoke, and began the design and production of bone china exclusive to Thomas Goode. He has also taken over the production of a glass works in Hungary and has a small studio outside Bath where hand-blown glass is made.

The best traditions of the company have been upheld — from the impeccable frock-coated service to the high quality of stock — but a combination of Nineties drive and imagination has been added to a formula that has kept royalty and the cognoscenti happy since 1827. Nowadays, as well as pieces from the leading china and glass companies, some exclusive to the shop, you can buy an ever-growing range of Thomas Goode designs, and have them customised, or even create your own, without breaking the bank.

If you want the grapes on a glass to be embellished with gold, it can be done. If you want a gold line taken off the rim of another, no problem — and the price will go down. A thinner gold band on your soup tureen? Certainly. Your dinner service monogrammed? At no extra cost. Your crest emblazoned upon it? Add 15 per cent to the cost and consider it done. A dinner service to match your tie? Why not?

All of which means that a monogrammed dinner plate can be yours for as little as £38, or a crested one for £43.70.

House designs for dinner services range from plain with a stipple border in 12 colours (dinner plate £52), thin gold-band borders (Castle of Mey £55), porcelain with a narrow band in ruby, emerald or blue (£37.50) and abstract modern designs, through to the traditionally pretty Green Garland (dinner plate £40) and the Concerto range (dinner plate a staggering £420).

My own favourites are the Windsor design (dinner plate £65), with a thick cobalt-blue and patterned gold stripes on the rim (other colours are available) and the Damask in platinum (also in gold, dinner plate £50).

Thomas Goode's elegant glassware ranges from the hand-cut Kensington collection (small wine glass £63), to the simple Plaza design (large wine glass £81). Although it looks contemporary, Plaza is a 1920s design which has been resurrected from the Thomas Goode archives.

The range also includes an elegant champagne jug (£270). Next time you want to find a glamorous present, head for South Audley Street and pick up a champagne jug and two glasses.

Still in the glass department, Thomas Goode's glass artist, Neil Wilkinson, makes modern designs in rich colours and monumental glass urns (from £350 to £1,500). There are also silver-plate and ceramic vases. As with the china, they can be customised to your taste or you can create your own. Just go in to the shop with a drawing of your design. As Mr Riahi says: "If you want it, we can make it."

Wilkinson has also designed a contemporary range of glasses, which are plain apart from a coloured stem or base with distressed gold leaf (from £30).

The shop has a good range of unusual presents. For under £50 you can buy a miniature clock with a silver face (£49.50); a cream feather-shaped candle with delicate gold highlighting (£20); exclusive rose geranium soap made to a formula created for Queen Mary and beautifully boxed (three soaps for £19.50); or a tiny crystal box bound in brass (from £35).

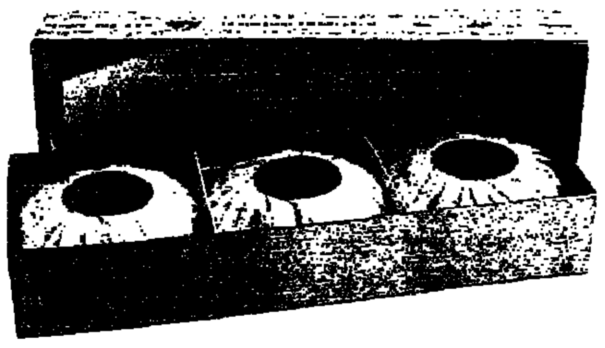
You can also enjoy the Victorian glory of the shop itself: its façade and original mechanical doors, oriental-style friezes and stained glass inspired by the Pre-Raphaelites — not to mention the elephants.

The newly displayed Thomas Goode archive includes china commissioned by tsars and emperors, kings and queens. Then there is lunch or tea at the adjoining Goode's restaurant which, of course, uses Thomas Goode tablewares.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

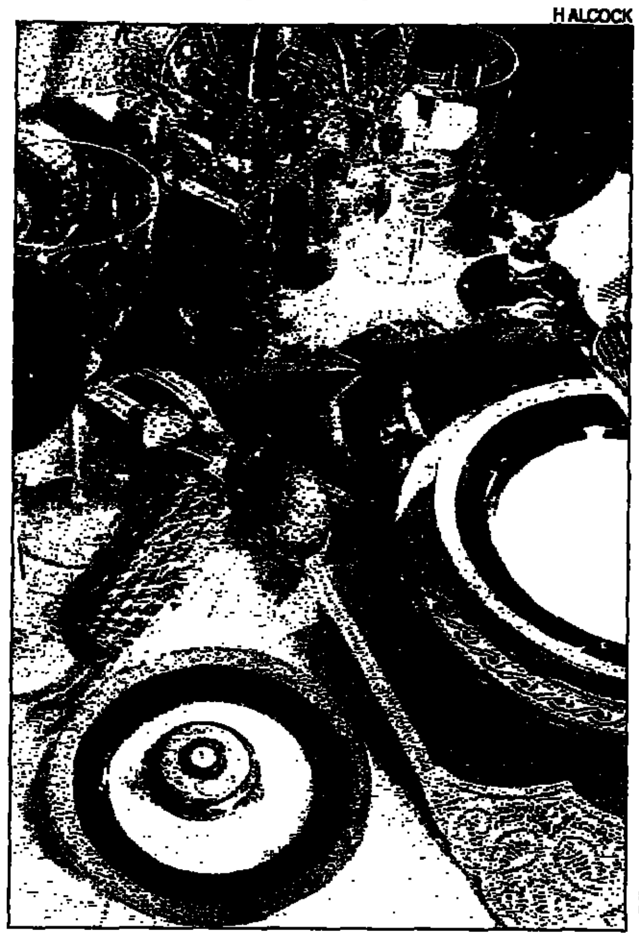
● *Thomas Goode (0171-499 2823) is at 19 South Audley Street, London W1Y 6BN*

The hand-cut champagne jug from the Kensington range costs £270

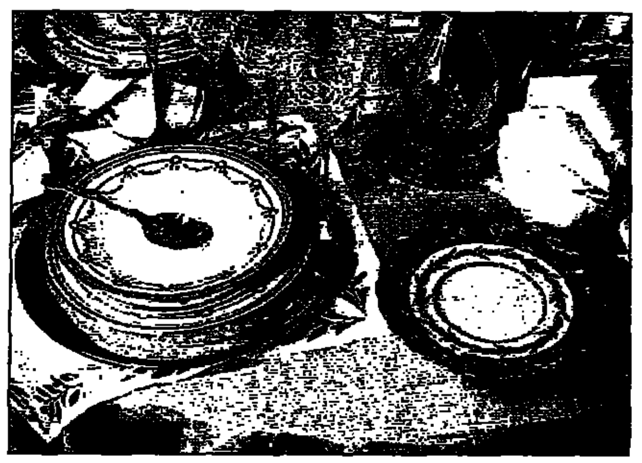


Boxed rose geranium soaps made to a formula created for Queen Mary. £19.50

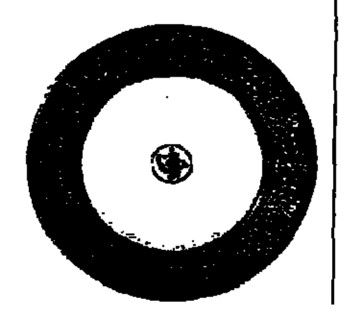
H ALCOCK



The Windsor (dinner plate £65) and Versailles (dinner plate £125) range on blue napkins with handmade gold lace (£55). Glass fruits from £25



Part of the Green Garland (dinner plate £40) and Laurel (dinner plate £52) setting. Kensington glasses include goblet (£71.50). Below, Wedgwood plate, £421



Centre, Damask in platinum setting (dinner plate, £50), with a silver-plated caviare dish, £62 and bone caviare spoon, £30. Left, diamanté napkin ring (£50)

Adventures in Grogg land

Ugly is beautiful in a world of clay rugby-star caricatures

Whether or not the Welsh sculptor John Hughes will be busy producing likenesses of Will Carling or François Pienaar next week depends on the outcome at Twickenham this afternoon, when the South African World Cup winners meet England.

Mr Hughes, a native of Pontypridd, who has built a cottage industry out of producing much sought-after clay caricatures of international sporting stars, finds public demand reflects the fluctuating fortunes of his subjects.

In the 1970s, the self-taught craftsman produced idiosyncratic impressions of Welsh compatriots such as Gareth Edwards and his contemporaries from the heyday of Welsh rugby.

He had first tried his hand at creating mythological characters drawn from the Mabinogion, a medieval collection of romantic tales.

Given his level of competence at the time, the advantage of this was that nobody knew what these medieval Welsh characters looked like. The bad news was that nobody cared enough to buy them either.

Then, watching an international rugby match, Mr Hughes noticed a resemblance between the real-life uglies of the Welsh pack and his mythological characters.

"I just put red shirts on my giants," he says. That flash of inspiration struck a chord with his fellow countrymen, and an element of ugliness remains an important ingredient in the sculptor's art of affectionate caricature.

Mr Hughes called his creations "Groggs". Grog is the rough-textured, crushed fire clay used when making models — "We doubled the 'g' and registered it as a trade name."

The bearded proprietor works among the colourful ranks of his faintly grotesque creations like a Celtic Dr Coppelius. He admits to being mystified by the affinity that some customers develop for his creations, which cost between £10 and £99. In case of breakages, they frequently ask him to make repairs although, as he points out, it would be less trouble — and cheaper — to buy a replacement.

One devotee has expressed the wish to be buried with his model of Gerald Davies, the former wing who writes on rugby for this newspaper. His all-time bestseller is Gareth Edwards, despite his retirement more than 15 years ago.

It was in 1980 that the sculptor, a fanatical Welsh supporter, broke with tradition and made a model of Bill Beaumont, an Englishmen.

"That was the thin end of the wedge," Mr Hughes admits. Bill sold well, and today Mr Hughes's shelves are stocked with representatives of most rugby-playing nations. Today, he estimates that mail-order sales account for one-third of his output.

Mr Hughes has now diversified into showbiz, arts and politics. He has been joined by his son Richard, who, he admits, "is better at faces". Their portrayal of local celebrities, Tom Jones and the late Sir Geraint Evans, are popular. Neither provides serious opposition, however, for Luciano Pavarotti, who, at 14in high and £99 plus £8 p&p, is their best-selling non-sportsman.

For the business tycoon who has everything, one-off portraits — for up to £1,000 — prove a flattering gift. Nostalgia plays a large role in public preferences. The bestseller in a popular line of screen stars is John Wayne, at £45 plus £5 p&p. Nostalgia plays a part, too, in Mr Hughes's own favourites: a group of coal-black mining figures based on his grandfather and his contemporaries.

Carling's problems off the field have not dented his popularity, but business in Michael Jackson figures did not survive the scandal surrounding his name.

At the cheaper end of the range is a series of scatty sheep bearing slogans such as "Ban mint sauce" or "Happiness is a muggy Monday in Merthyr" (£19.95). But for John Hughes, happiness is a warm kiln.

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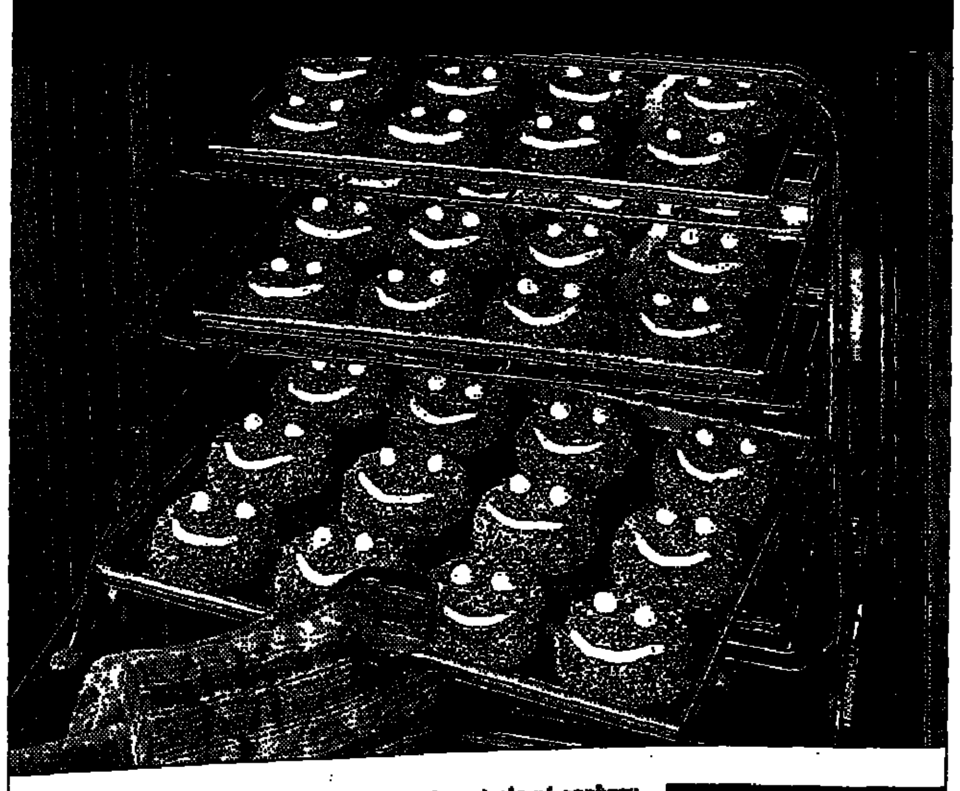

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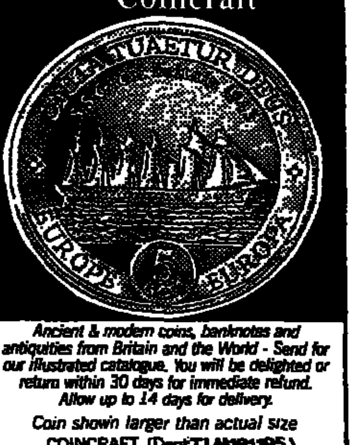

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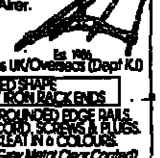

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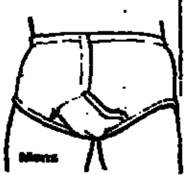

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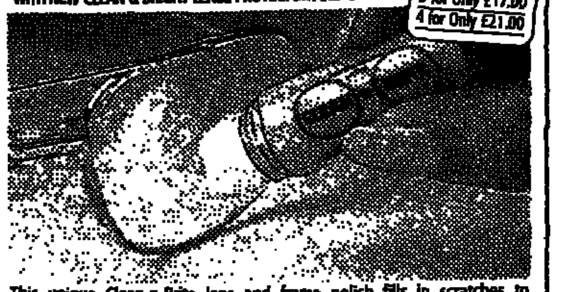

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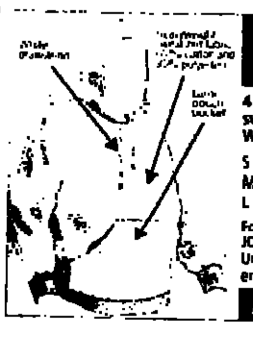

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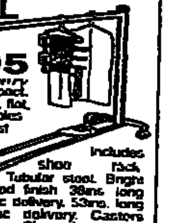

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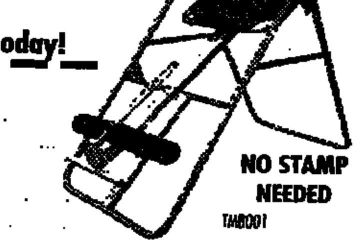

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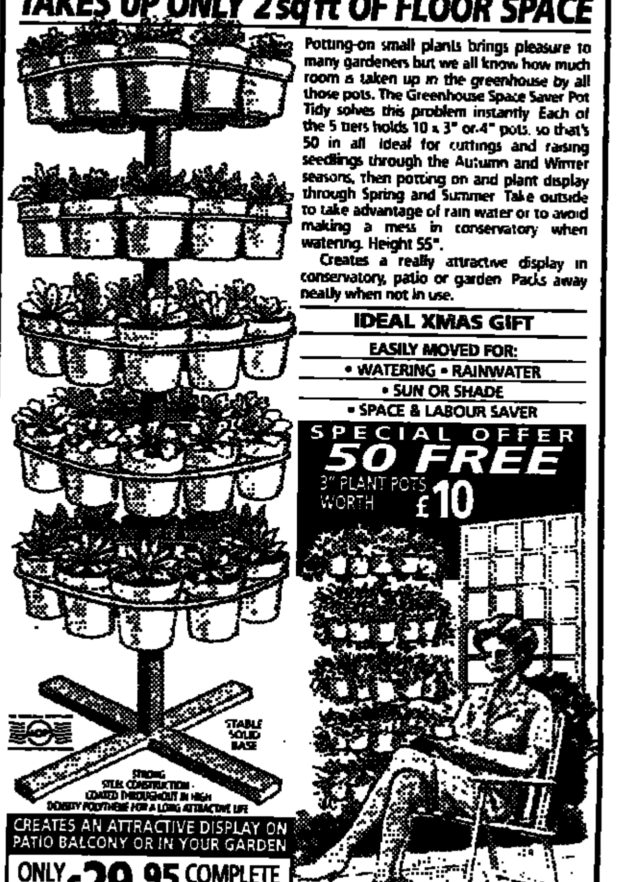
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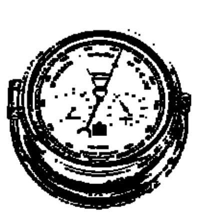

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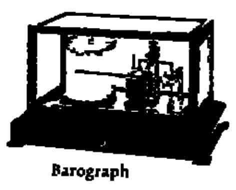

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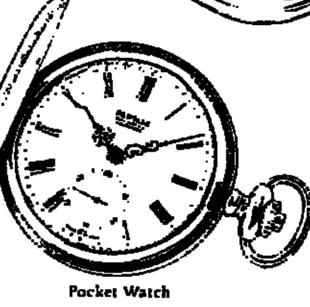

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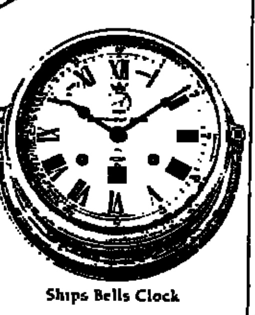

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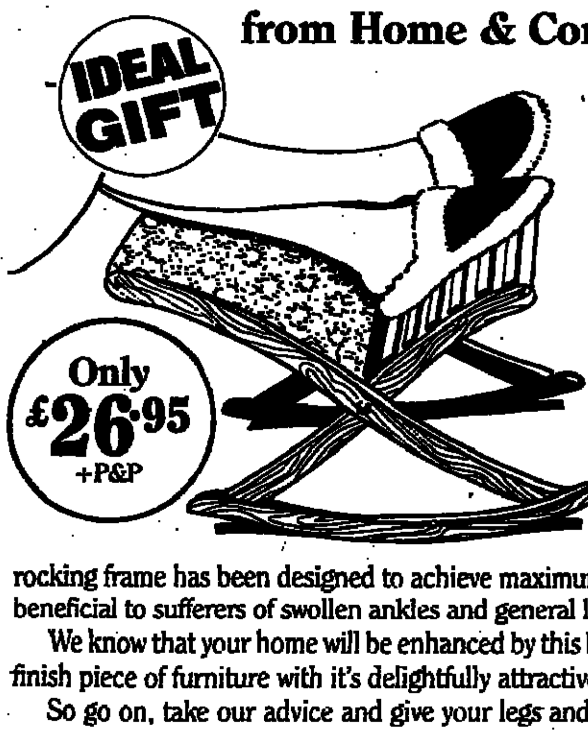

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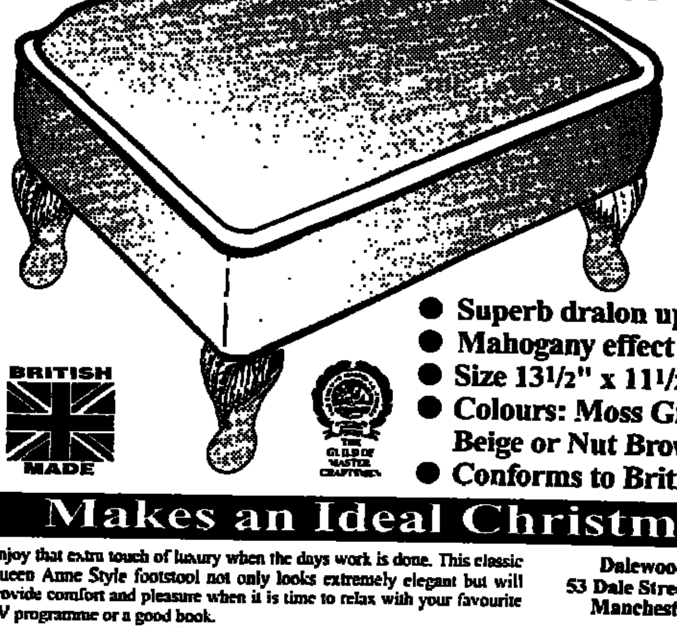

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When the gang was all there

■ CAPO
By Peter Watson
Richard Cohen, £9.99

THE GLAMOUR of the Mafia thriller has taken some hard knocks over the past three years. The imprisonment of the big dons of America and Italy, John Gotti and Salvatore Riina, has revealed them to be depressingly squat, squalid men addicted to meaningless brutality, oblivious to all the traditional hocus pocus of Cosa Nostra culture. This makes unpromising material for the thriving industry of Mafia literature: small wonder, then, that Peter Watson has decided to turn back the clock.

Capo is a good old-fashioned Mafia epic, which convincingly amalgamates various different historical events in Sicily and New Orleans towards the end of the last century. Watson has certainly found himself some great raw material. Of the book's many dramatic events, the most unbelievable or shocking turn out to be those that really happened. Ransom notes, jailbreaks, corrupt chiefs of police, lynch mobs, heroic Pinkerton's detectives — it is all the real McCoy.

The book begins with the Sicilian kidnapping of an English priest in 1879, various bits of whom are dispatched to his relatives by post, then follows the kidnapper off to New Orleans and the intrigues of the fruit docks and the whorehouses. These are the early days of the Italo-American Mafia, who are just setting up their first protection rackets. They are still very close to their roots, and family feuds have travelled intact across the Atlantic. However, Watson opens the book out beyond the usual macho posturing by including strong female characters from whom the young Sicilian hero learns some hard lessons.

The action clips along without ever becoming frenetic, uncluttered by fancy language — Watson keeps it simple. Sentences are mostly brief and there is plenty of dialogue, true to the rules of good thriller prose. The historical stage props sometimes creak a bit too loudly — "the new-fangled electric light" and so on — but the steamy atmosphere of 19th-century New Orleans is vivid.

All in all it is enough to make you feel really quite nostalgic for the days when, instead of the vulgar Gotti chainsaw approach, mafiosi blew their enemies away using sticks of dynamite tied in little bundles with string.

HARRIET PATERSON

A clutch of military chronicles reveals how the public's appetite for the blood and thunder of battle remains as strong as ever

How we hunger after war

DANIEL JOHNSON

War is the red meat of history. It was devoured by classical, medieval and early modern chroniclers to the virtual exclusion of more pacific matter, such as art or economics, but is disdained in our day by herbivorous historians whose delicate palates cannot abide a diet of blood and guts. So military history has long been a minor specialism on the unfashionable margins of the academic world. Apart from a few outposts — such as the Chichele Chair of the History of War at Oxford or the Department of War Studies at King's College, London — it is a field occupied by servicemen with literary leanings and a few freelance scholars.

Yet the persistent popularity of the subject is attested not only by bellicose bestsellers — memoirs and biographies of military heroes or novels set in wartime — but also by the many less lucrative books on warfare which appear each year. Here are a few good new ones.

On the Origins of War, by the Yale historian Donald Kagan (Hutchinson, £25), is a profound treatise on the deeper significance of war, in the tradition of Clausewitz. Kagan analyses the genesis of five conflicts, from the Peloponnesian War in 431-404 BC to the Cuban missile crisis in 1962.

Kagan draws a sombre conclusion: just as it did after 1918, the Western Alliance, victorious over Soviet and Iraqi aggression, is in danger of "faltering in their willingness to pay the price in money and the risk of lives". "Nothing could be more natural in a liberal republic," he warns, "yet nothing could be more threatening to the peace they have achieved recently."

Next, reference books. *Brassey's Companion to the British Army* is alphabetical, exhaustive and a snip at £30. The *Cambridge Illustrated History of Warfare* (CUP, £24.95), written by an Anglo-American team of academics, is a handsome chronological introduction to military history. The editor, Geoffrey Parker, argues that war has always been largely a matter of money: "Who pays and why is almost as important, for Western societies, as who fights and why."

This seems to me the view from the cloister. Wars leave their documentary traces chiefly in financial accounts; but this historiographical phenomenon should not obscure the political and moral dimensions of human conflict, which are primordial and predominant. The Cold War was decided by Gorbachev's recognition not merely that Nato could outspend the Warsaw Pact — all Soviet leaders had known that — but that it had the political will to do so. Economics may make war more likely, but never inevitable.

As the coincidence of Pat Barker's Booker winner *The Ghost Road* and Remembrance Day showed, the Great War still shapes our national consciousness. Hugh Cecil's *The Flower of Battle: British Fiction Writers of the First World War* (Secker & Warburg, £25) is a learned biographical survey of the war's literary legacy. Jay Winter's *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European cultural history* (CUP, £22.95) is an essay in comparative cultural history: it investigates the forms of commemoration adopted by the British, French and Germans. *Bloody Red Tabs: General Officer Casualties of the Great War* by Frank Davies and Graham Maddocks (Leo Cooper, £17.95) is specialised but also original. It attacks the myth that British generals hid in their châteaux, ignorant of the horrors of trench warfare. This fiction, fostered for self-interested reasons by Lloyd George's *War Memoirs* and reinforced by Alan Clark's *The Donkeys*, is belied by the facts: more than 200 British and Commonwealth generals killed, wounded or captured — far more than in 1939-45.

One Second World War general who was never accused of cowardice was Patton. Carlo D'Este's fine biography, *A Genius for War: A Life of General George S. Patton* (HarperCollins, £25), persuaded me reluctantly to share the author's admiration for his blustering, bloodthirsty subject. Despite his braggadocio, Patton was indeed a brilliant tactician, but — rightly — he never enjoyed Eisenhower's full confidence. After victory, frustrated by Washington's insistence on rapid demobilisation, he longed to evict Stalin from central Europe. In December 1945, the unstoppable force hit an immovable obstacle. His Cadillac collided with a lorry moving at 10 mph; he died in agony 12 days later.

After these hefty works, it is a pleasure to turn to *The Battle for History* (Hutchinson, £12.99), John Keegan's essay on the historiography of the Second World War. Though overpriced, this slim volume contains great erudition and a fund of common sense; it is a kind of appendix to the history of the 1939-45 war by this eminent Sandhurst lecturer turned journalist-historian. A few of the books he discusses have been overtaken by recent scholarship; but his instinct for the bogus never lets him down.

Home truths of her indoors

Housework, motherhood, tragedy and love — how little a woman's lot has changed, says **Ginny Dougary**

THERE is a museum in the East End of London that offers the public a sense of its history through the artefacts and furnishings of the domestic living room. Olga Kenyon's book performs much the same task for womankind. This is her fifth book on women, and the second in which she uses their letters to light up the hidden lives of both famous and unknown women from the earliest of times to the present.

At times, you can feel yourself being drawn into a web of femaleness. Was there ever an era when women did not worry about running a household or being good mothers or succeeding in their work or juggling all three? At other times, the women's feelings are so particular to their extraordinary experiences that your sense of mutuality is replaced by one of awe: the dashing Victorian explorers who boldly went where no Western woman — nor, sometimes, man — had gone before; Marion Merriman, the only full-time woman volunteer in the International Brigade during the Spanish Civil War.

Sometimes the drama is rather less highly wrought, if no less deeply felt. For letters, as the book's opening line proclaims, remind us that history was once real life. And in real life, one's individual vicissitudes can be as charged as a Greek tragedy. Bowel

■ WOMEN'S VOICES
By Olga Kenyon
Constable, £18.95

■ THE PENGUIN BOOK OF WOMEN'S LIVES
Edited by Phyllis Rose
Penguin, £15

complaints are here, along with period pains; the trauma of being rejected in love (expressed by no less towering intellectuals than Dame Rebecca West and Mme de Staël) and the frustration of doing the housework ("I hate, hate, *hate* doing these things" — Katherine Mansfield).

In the section on travel, the letters soar with poetic eloquence. But there is eloquence, too, in the smaller domestic adventures. It seems that women have always written about their young with the tender precision of the novelist: an unknown American in 1847, having lost her first baby, reveals the joy of greeting her new, healthy daughter with her "little round solid head and snug body"; Mrs Gaskell describes her 19-year-old daughter's "anxious, conscientious little heart".

The book follows the conventional life cycle, from birth to thoughts of death. Less conventionally, the author includes relevant letters from friends and colleagues, and even one from herself to the reader, along with those by the more illustrious names of Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale and Emmeline Pankhurst. A single mother describes her life: after studying, after kissing her three-year-old son goodnight, after doing the housework, she sits down to write to her friends, "because writing letters is my lifeline to the outside world".

The editor of *Women's Lives*, Phyllis Rose, assumes that most of her readers will dip into her anthology — extracts from the memoirs, journals and autobiograhies of 20th-century women. She seems to encourage this approach partly because of the book's bulk (more than 800 pages) but also because — unlike Kenyon — she disapproves of schematic categorising.

So what we have here is a collection of writers, both the familiar and the obscure, arranged alphabetically and picked simply because the editor liked what they wrote and the way that they wrote it. I was thrilled to discover the work of the less celebrated writers: Emile Carles's strong-voiced story of peasant life in the French Alps; the opium adventures of Emily Hahn; the treacherous new world of Santha Rama Rau's Anglo-Indian school. Oh, and at least one more. Rose's introduction is so engagingly written that I found myself wanting to read an extended version of her life story, too.

Last lines: from *Marilyn: her life in her own words* by George Barris (Headline, £17.99), based on interviews conducted in June 1962, two months before her death

Latin lesson by heart

■ UNFORGETTABLE
By William Gill
HarperCollins, £14.99

AT 54, Martin is in good shape, both physically and mentally. A highly successful film director, he knows how to duck and swerve through the Hollywood jungle and how to keep his therapist sweet. In short, Martin has learnt "to overlook and ignore" and, with this lesson for survival uppermost in his mind, he is free to enjoy his success. Yet at his emotional centre is a curious deadness. Why?

Thirty years ago, on holiday in Paris from his native Argentina, Martin fell in love with a beautiful, older Argentine heiress, Delia, who was also a well-known writer. So far, so gorgeously concupiscent. But, as the affair progresses, Martin is forced by curious coincidences to conclude that his affair is part of a long family history which includes hatred, bitterness and a possible murder. Had Delia been involved with Francis, his handsome father, before his premature death? Is this why Isabel, Martin's mother, hates Delia? Who is keeping his impoverished mother? Can Martin believe Delia's explanations — after all, she is a spinner of fictions? Unable at this stage to overlook or ignore, Martin is determined to find out.

With its enigmatic Circe figure at the centre, its shifting perspectives and evasions, plus its portrait of a young male embarking on a sentimental education, *Unforgettable* has a whiff of *My Cousin Rachel*. However, as this is essentially a South American drama, it is politics that provide the key to the mystery as much as unchecked passions.

William Gill writes of his hero's temptations and failures with sympathy, for Martin is confronting the brutal dismantling of his innocence and therein is exposed the moral skeleton of the novel. In borrowing elements from Grand Guignol, Gill convincingly fictionalises the split-second changes in perception and courage which irrevocably alter a life.

ELIZABETH BUCHAN

Mired and emotional

■ A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY
By Titia Sutherland
Bantam, £15.99

MATT and Kate are having a trial separation. Their nine-year-old son, Jake, is doing his best to believe that they will come together again but Kate is not so sure. She is no longer prepared to put up with Matt's refusal to discuss anything important or his habit of abruptly leaving home in search of inspiration for his photography and travel writing.

In her loneliness and depression Kate leans on kind, undemanding Roly, who was at university with Matt. Only her father warns that Roly's quiet devotion might not be as innocuous as it seems.

She takes no notice and carries on using Roly as a poultice for her emotional wounds. It is he who brings wicked, sexy Niall into her empty life. She knows how selfish Niall is because she once witnessed a brief affair he had with a flatmate of hers. Even so she cannot resist him.

A Friend of the Family is a skilfully written, deceptively gentle, novel about selfishness and self-absorption. The only attractive characters are Kate's father, her son Jake, and Helga, the German *au pair* who looks after him. Most of the others are so interested in their own needs that they ignore the possibility that they might owe something to other people.

Although it is a little hard to accept that anyone with Roly's insight into his own feelings could behave as he does, and even harder to believe in the happy ending Titia Sutherland offers, it is still possible to find a great deal of pleasure in this thoroughly civilised novel.

KATE HATFIELD

THE TIMES
SPECIAL OFFER
FREE MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES GUIDE

In Search of Adventure, by John Harrold at the Rupert Bear Festival

Starting today, *The Times* brings you the first of a series of weekly special events highlighting Museums and Galleries across the country. Holders of *The Times-Barclays Premier Museums and Galleries Passport* can enjoy privileges ranging from reduced entry charges to free posters and guide books.

Why not visit one of the exhibitions open to Passport holders listed below. They will give you an idea of the diversity and range of events in store over the months ahead.

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"Mummies of the Pharaohs" at Expocentre
A permanent exhibition bringing together specially re-created models of Royal Mummies of Ancient Egypt. These are displayed amongst facsimiles of Egyptian funerary treasures.
Passport holders are entitled to two for one admission.
Old Christchurch Lane
Tel: 01305 269741 (Daily 10am-4pm; closed 24-26 Dec)

LONDON, E2
Rupert Bear Festival at Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood
Celebrating Rupert's 75 years, this festival includes an exhibition and a linking series of activities, which portray the world of Nutwood, the home of Rupert Bear, using life-size settings, videos and original illustrations, plus ideas for Christmas presents.
First 200 Passport holders are entitled to a free poster.
Cambridge Heath Road
Information Tel: 0181 980 2415
(Mon-Thur & Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2.30pm-5.50pm)
Rupert Bear Festival now until Jan 7.

SHEFFIELD
"The Opening Door" at the Graves Art Gallery
An exploration of photography-based work from sculptors, print makers, painters and film and video makers. The resulting cross-artform exhibits include books, computer print-outs and 3 dimensional photography. In conjunction with Sheffield Hallam University and the Site Gallery.
Passport holders are entitled to a free poster.
Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street
Tel: 0114 273 4780 (Mon-Sat 10am-5pm)
The Opening Door now until Dec 9.

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If you would like a copy of the Passport Guide and Passport Card, send your name, address and a first class stamp loose in the envelope to: The Times Museums and Galleries Passport Offer, Spero Communications, PO Box 349, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6YU.

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HARDBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	MASKERADE **Terry Pratchett** *(Gollancz)*	£15.99	5	2
2	IMMEDIATE ACTION **Andy McNab** *(Bantam)*	£15.99	3	2
3	DELIA SMITH'S WINTER COLLECTION **Delia Smith** *(BBC)*	£15.99	1	4
4	X FILES BOOK OF THE UNEXPLAINED Vol 1 *(Simon & Schuster)*	£15.99	0	1
5	FROM POTTER'S FIELD **Patricia Cornwell** *(Little Brown)*	£15.99	4	6
6	ISLAND OF THE DAY BEFORE **Umberto Eco** *(Secker & Warburg)*	£16.99	8	6
7	THE LOST WORLD **Michael Crichton** *(Century)*	£14.99	10	3
8	RICK STEIN'S TASTE OF THE SEA **Rick Stein** *(BBC)*	£16.99	0	2
9	COME TO GRIEF **Dick Francis** *(Michael Joseph)*	£15.99	6	9
10	RISE OF THE MERCHANT PRINCE **Raymond E. Feist** *(HarperCollins)*	£15.99	0	1

PAPERBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	INTERESTING TIMES **Terry Pratchett** *(Corgi)*	£4.99	0	1
2	PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (TV tie-in) **Jane Austen** *(Penguin)*	£2.99	2	6
3	LONG WALK TO FREEDOM **Nelson Mandela** *(Little Brown)*	£5.99	4	4
4	SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS **David Guterson** *(Bloomsbury)*	£5.99	1	8
5	WRITING HOME **Alan Bennett** *(Faber)*	£7.99	3	5
6	*PRIDE AND PREJUDICE* **Jane Austen** *(Penguin)*	£1.99	6	3
7	THE LAST HUMAN **Doug Naylor** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	0	1
8	DAUGHTERS OF CAIN **Colin Dexter** *(Pan)*	£4.99	5	4
9	A CELESTINE PROPHECY **James Redfield** *(Bantam)*	£7.99	16	10
10	BROTHER CADFAEL'S PENANCE **Ellis Peters** *(Warner)*	£4.99	7	5
11	SIMISOLA **Ruth Rendell** *(Arrow)*	£4.99	8	5
12	MISS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW **Peter Høeg** *(Flamingo)*	£5.99	0	48
13	AGE OF EXTREMES **E. J. Hobsbawn** *(Abacus)*	£9.99	0	2
14	FATHERLAND **Robert Harris** *(Arrow)*	£4.99	9	6
15	UNEQUAL MARRIAGE **Emma Tennant** *(Sceptre)*	£5.99	15	2
16	FINAL CUT **Michael Dobbs** *(HarperCollins)*	£5.99	12	4
17	A SON OF THE CIRCUS **John Irving** *(Black Swan)*	£7.99	0	10
18	THE CONSTANT MISTRESS **Angela Lambert** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	0	1
19	TRAINSPOTTING **Irvine Welsh** *(Minerva)*	£6.99	11	17
20	BIRDSONG **Sebastian Faulks** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	0	43

Any book from this list can be ordered from Dillons Mail Order Tel: 0171 636 1577 Fax: 0171 580 7680 DILLONS

Creepy Crawley

■ PSYCHOVILLE
By Christopher Fowler
Warner Books, £7.99

CHRISTOPHER FOWLER'S story so far: evicted from their cosy home by a motorway-building council, Billy March and his family are forced to move from Sarf London to Invicta Cross near Crawley. This horrid new place — the suburb-child of Thatcher's Britain — is not at all to the working-class family's taste. The problem, of course, is that the family is not to the taste of its new neighbours either.

Aghast at the lowering of neighbourhood tone, the Prouts, the Bovises, the Metcalfs, the Bricketts and the Dillers appear to conspire against the new family in their midst. Mysterious letters, insults, accidents, dead puppies, and other sorts of unpleasantness are directed at Billy's family. Why are they doing this, Billy wonders, as he logs every incident in his diary at night? Can cultural differences alone be the source of such hatred? Or are there other — more sinster — reasons?

Spurned by the other pupils at school, Billy leads a life apart and strikes up a friendship with the local undertaker's son. Awkward April, another misfit, provides the love-interest — although she is aloof and quizzical, and kisses Billy only a bit.

Psychoville next skips a decade to 1995, returning to Invicta Cross with fresh vim and vengeance. The property boom is over; Thatcher, thank god, has gone the way of all Thatchers. But the Prouts, the Bovises, the Metcalfs, the Bricketts and the Dillers are still there, having driven Billy & Co out ten years ago. Then a young, glamorous couple appears — and the story comes wickedly to life again.

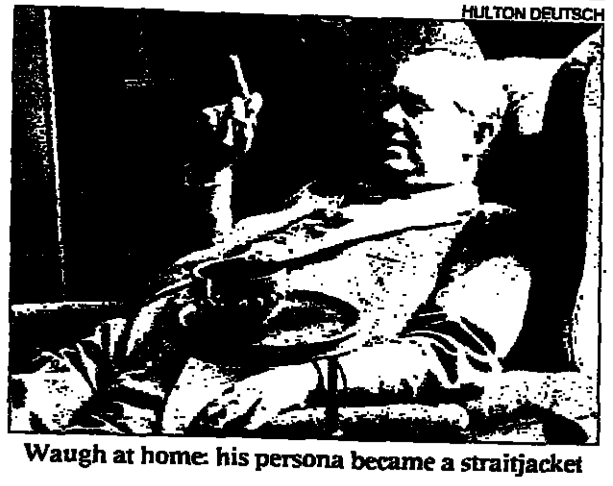
Fowler's book is ghoulishly irresistible, with lines such as: "Georgina Bovis was under the weather when she needed to be under the weatherman"; or "The child was putting chocolate mousse inside his pants, then picking his nose and burying the mined ore in his dessert". This — and much else — is clearly not for the squeamish, but when Fowler combines such gutter-delights with the use of words like "gelid" and "canescent", he makes a magnetic story.

TUNKU VARADARAJAN

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

NEW IN PAPERBACK


HULTON DEUTSCH

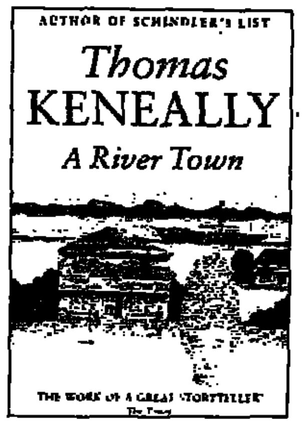
Waugh at home: his persona became a straitjacket

■ EVELYN WAUGH
A Biography
By Selina Hastings
Minerva, £7.99

IN 1942 WAUGH wrote to his wife from the Army that his sleep was repeatedly disturbed by "a sort of nightmare... dreams of unendurable boredom — of reading page after page of dullness, of being told endless, pointless jokes...". This terror of boredom, of meaninglessness, haunted him all his life. He warded it off with drink, drugs, casual sex, a Catholicism so fundamental that many Catholics were alarmed by it, and with his writing.

Selina Hastings deftly draws together the threads of Waugh's life and work in her vivid portrait of the "active, interested and cheerful little boy" from suburban Golders Green who turned into the snobbish, reactionary and bellicose bully of later years — a persona that started as a protection and soon became a straitjacket.

She gives a sharply enjoyable picture of the society to which Waugh aspired but to which he could never entirely belong: the aristocratic, self-absorbed country-house set of the interwar years which he used so brilliantly in his novels. Even so sympathetic a biographer cannot make Waugh likeable — as Raymond Mortimer observed: "good-tempered Waugh is Waugh at his second-best" — but she does at least make him more understandable.



■ A RIVER TOWN
By Thomas Keneally
Sceptre, £5.99

A REMOTE township in New South Wales at the turn of the century gives Keneally rich material for this story of a sensitive Irish storekeeper's encounters with misfortune. While his fellow townsfolk hotly debate the provision of troops to Southern Africa, Tim Shea contends with debt, blacklisting, contact with dangerous infection, and a child's death by drowning. An engrossing novel, complete with murder mystery, marital affection and some spectacularly naughty children.

■ WRONGFUL DEATHS
By William Wharton
Granta, £6.99

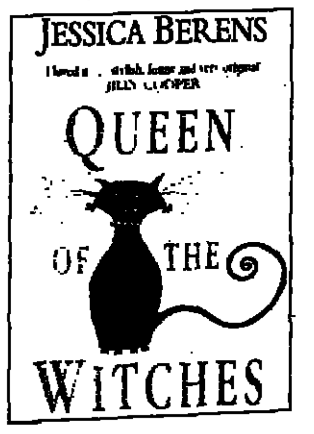
IN 1988, Wharton, a distinguished novelist and author of *Birdy*, lost his daughter and her family in an agricultural fire in Oregon. Incredibly, just days after the accident, Wharton claims to have been "visited" by the dead in a dream and instructed to expose those responsible. His acceptance of this mission (which includes having to photograph the mangled remains of his daughter) and his attempt to exact a measure of justice from a legal system rotted "by the deceits of political leaders" is recounted with an intensity of love and rage as humbling as it is riveting.

■ IRONING JOHN
The Diary of a Househusband
By James Leith
Corgi, £4.99

THERE is a kind of desperate "you don't have to be mad to live here but it helps" jocularity about books written by men who have turned domestic, and this real-life Aga saga is no exception. James Leith, ex-actor and resting restaurateur, describes how, for a year, he coped with four children, a menagerie of pets, the macho mates who came to jeer and the patronising mothers at the school gate while his wife, Penny Junor ("the helpmeet"), pounded out her latest royal biography. His children were embarrassed by him — but then, what children today have a parent at home full-time? Like the rest of this mixture of anecdotes and household hints, it's a sweetly old-fashioned concept.

■ A BAG OF BOILED SWEETS
By Julian Critchley
Faber, £6.99

A LOOK back on the life of politics by one who, despite his recent knighthood, has professedly failed in the trade. But Critchley tells his story of 30 years on the backbenches with wit and irreverence, even if not all his anecdotes will strike the more faithful followers of his journalism as being precisely pristine. But he writes without self-pity about his polio, caught as a young man, and which has now returned to haunt him. Altogether, a cut above most political memoirs and entitled to take its place alongside Alan Clark's *Diaries*.



Hunter S Thompson

■ QUEEN OF THE WITCHES
By Jessica Berens
Arrow, £5.99

SHEENAH, High Priestess of the Divine Order of Isis and Director of the Witches' Liberation League, is daggers drawn with Myra, TV crystal ball gazer and millionairess, in the fight to be Queen of the Witches. Myra, who is a covert practitioner of black magic, is preparing her dirtiest tricks to secure her election; so Sheenah is forced to enlist the help of the hapless members of her Witchcraft 1 evening class. This is a stylish and entertaining novel, despite its unprepossessing London setting; with its relentless satire on contemporary mores, it is a wickedly perceptive tale.

■ BETTER THAN SEX
Confessions of a Political Junkie
By Hunter S. Thompson
Black Swan, £6.99

HUNTER S. THOMPSON is one of America's best-known political analysts with a career spanning 25 years: he reckons politics is an addiction, and more fun than sex. Glancing sadly back to 1972 when a McGovern aide called Clinton was sacked for such incompetence that it was believed he was finished in politics, and remembering his own failed attempt to stand for mayor, he gives an account of the 1992 presidential campaign using his own articles, letters and faxes to the famous that combines knowledge and sharp insight with passion and a laconic, streetwise wit.

Contributors: Hazel Leslie, Alison Burns, Jake Michie, Anthony Howard, Lucy Lethbridge, Fiona Hook

Hang out the dirty linen

We all love a juicy scandal — if it is not about us, says

Gerald Kaufman

HAROLD WILSON once told me that every voter was in favour of tough government policies, provided that the toughness did not affect the voter personally. "They like to hear the lash on their neighbour's back."

Scandals can be highly enjoyable, provided that they are about someone else. Some scandals are meant to be enjoyable. Bruce Palling's book records how, when in 1913 insults, howls, whistles, slapping, punching and even a duel were provoked by Stravinsky's ballet *The Rite of Spring*, the impresario Diaghilev commented, "Exactly what I wanted".

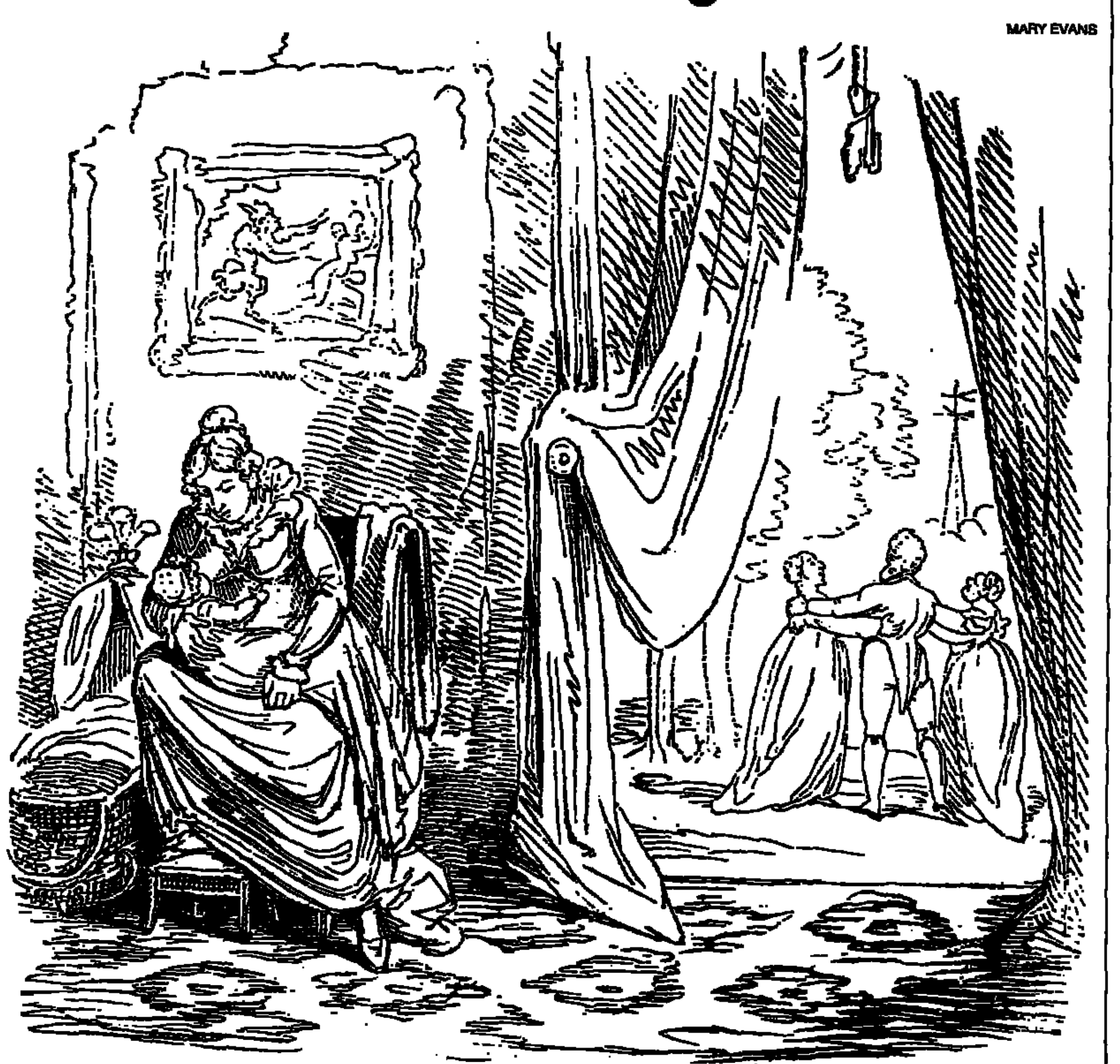
Nor is royal scandal a new phenomenon. George IV's marriage to Queen Caroline was famously unhappy and was lampooned in the press every bit as much as the marital difficulties of today's young Royals.

Some scandals turn out not to be scandals at all. Wilson's "lavender" honours list, dealt with by both Palling and Matthew Parris, may have been in part injudicious, but, says Parris, "My hunch is that the real shock about Wilson is that the cupboard contained nothing".

Some scandals may have weighty consequences. The real significance of the Profumo affair (again cited by both Palling and Parris) stems from its effect on Harold Macmillan's electoral timetable. Macmillan had planned an autumn 1963 election, aimed to coincide with a carefully prepared economic boom. The hubbub about the Profumo affair delayed the election by a year; and the Conservatives, who might well have won in October 1963, were narrowly defeated just 12 months later.

Most scandals, however, do not matter at all except to those personally affected by them. Palling says, "Scandals... tend to emphasise the trivial". David Mellor, in a preface to Parris's book, rightly comments, "Most of what he writes about here is almost pathetically trivial". However, two categories of person — clergymen and politicians — are very likely to suffer long-term, even permanent, ill-effects from their embroilment in scandal.

Palling reports that in 1875 Henry Ward Beecher was a target for obloquy because the prurient prude who exposed him was able to declare, "I know a Clergyman of Eminence in Brooklyn who lives in Concubinage". Again, a century later, it might not have mattered all that much when a certain gentleman "collapsed and died in the flat of an attractive young blonde who works in an all-night cabaret in Paris" if that unfortunate fellow had not been Cardinal Jean Danielou, who, the police stated to the belief of absolutely nobody, had "called on 24-year-old Mrs J. Santoni... to act as her father confessor".


MARY EVANS

Royal infidelity: Queen Caroline stays at home while George IV philanders, as seen by Cruikshank in 1820

Similarly, certain peccadilloes might not have humiliatingly terminated the careers of some of Parris's subjects had those subjects not been MPs. Poor T. L. Mardy Jones, "obscure Labour backbencher" for Pontypridd, felt obliged to resign his Commons seat after having arranged for his wife and daughter to use invalid railway tickets.

William Field, Labour MP for Paddington North, gave up his constituency after incurring a £15 fine for having "looked in the direction of [the] persons" of "various young men" in public lavatories. Parris says, "What to most of the world is simply a giggle, can be little short of crushing to the individual concerned".

■ THE BOOK OF MODERN SCANDAL: From Byron to the Present Day
Edited by Bruce Palling
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

■ GREAT PARLIAMENTARY SCANDALS: Four Centuries of Calumny, Smear and Innuendo
By Matthew Parris
Robson, £16.95

Palling simply records from contemporary documents the details of the events covered in his often entertaining book. Parris, on the other hand, has visited participants in many of the more recent episodes he describes. He comes away sympathetic to Lady Falkender (Harold Wilson's former personal secretary), Jeremy Thorpe (who lost his seat following allegations about a homosexual relationship) and David Mellor; as well as the late Jimmy Dunn, pilloried for a shoplifting offence; and "funny, bright, and generous" Allan Roberts, reported to have participated in sex orgies in Berlin.

The compassion which pervades Parris's book reveals, indeed, a hitherto unsuspected secret about its author which could not possibly be deduced from the acerbic writing style of his parliamentary sketches in *The Times*. He is clearly a very kind man.

Deceit goes Dutch

■ HOFFMAN'S HUNGER
By Leon De Winter
André Deutsch, £14.99

IN THE darkened streets of Prague at the fag end of the Cold War, an obese American tourist in quest of a midnight hamburger to satisfy his voracious gluttony stumbles onto a brutal, sinister kidnapping.

In another part of the same city, 24 hours later, an overweight Dutch diplomat with chronic insomnia and two dead daughters sits eating caviare over an abstract treatise by the 17th-century philosopher Baruch Spinoza. The fat American and the fat Dutchman will never meet but the link between them has been made in hell.

Hoffman's Hunger, by Dutch writer and film director Leon De Winter is a classic of the modern European idiom: Umberto Eco would recognise the author as a soulmate. On an intellectual level, this is a book about the mismatch between ideas and reality, about the meaning of life with or without God. But it is acted out as a Rabelaisian tragedy: a sad, bitter story of failure and deception embellished with flatulence, gluttony, drug abuse and furtive fornication. It is also a story about fidelity — to persons, countries and beliefs.

It is entertainingly, if cynically, realistic about the moral flatulence of most diplomatic activity. Hoffman, the protagonist, is a Dutch Jew with a German name that means "man of hope", which is the chief quality he lacks. He is the cruel termination of a family at its centre point, a man who lost his parents in the war and his daughters to a faith-sapping fate. His touchingly flawed humanity — at its best when he faces down the icy British ambassador after emerging covered in vomit from a lavatory at an embassy reception — leads him into a potentially poisonous web of deceit that nonetheless at any moment threatens to evaporate harmlessly.

This is the first major novel to be set against the revolutions of 1989 and, save in its denouement, it brilliantly all but ignores them. It is a story to kiss good night to the terrible 20th century. It is stuffed with prejudices, laced with let-downs. It also casts enough aspersions on the Germans, thereby pandering to the national masochism, to make it a bestseller there already. I wonder if it can do as well here; if so, it could signal a breakthrough in our insular antipathy to non-anglophone writers.

PETER MILLAR

Dancing on their last legs

■ GORLESTON
By Henry Sutton
Sceptre, £9.99

AFTER the Aga Saga, here comes the Saga saga, and none the worse for that. Henry Sutton, barely into his thirties, has clearly spent his youth in observing the ways of the elderly population on his home patch on the Norfolk-Suffolk border. In this odd, touching, beautifully written first novel he lays out for us with rare sympathy the frightening and exhilarating fact that age does not necessarily bring serenity.

Or even respectability. Percy, a widower whose emotional joints are stiffening as fast as his real ones, is led on by the skittish and unpredictable (and yes, sexy) Queenie. No, this is not some teenage harpy: Queenie is an old woman herself, for all the hellish brilliance of her orange hair. Old woman, not "old lady"; the more you find out about Queenie, snooker fan, former stripper and siren, the less of a lady she appears.

She lures Percy into saucy underwear shops, weaves in and out of bollards in her Mini Metro, keeps a drawerful of plastic dog turds, swipes men round the head with her handbag for objecting to her chain-smoking and generally makes mayhem. Queenie is trouble, fascinating trouble. Percy is the eternal young man in love with trouble, lost and bewildered, stimulated and frustrated. But because they are old, they have histories, and pain can come at them out of the past as well as the present. There is no happy ending, and this is no heart-warming sit-com fodder.

But nor are the old people caricatures. Their situation, on the far edge of life, ready to crumble into the eternal sea, is reflected with grand, gloomy dignity by the situation of Gorleston itself, a vanishing, sad, sullen place eclipsed by younger, brasher Yarmouth. It is a book about erosion, really. We all get eroded in the end; but some of us, like Queenie, keep on painting the beach-huts in jazzy colours right up to the last minute.

LIBBY PURVES

Generation execrable

TAKE a commune of computer programmers in California; make them explore the drudgery of working for Bill Gates's Microsoft before going on to start their own software house; let them then pair off, come out, face death, get drunk, hug their parents; set it all down as a computer-based journal complete with clever computer typography — and instead of a run-of-the-mill, coming-of-age story, you have the definitive story for our technological generation.

Except, of course, that you don't. For all Douglas Coupland's dweeb jokes, his recondite Apple v IBM references, his Silicon Valley-speak, his television game-show catch phrases and junk-food trade names, there is nothing much to distinguish *Microserfs* from any pre-tech equivalent written in the past 30 years.

Coupland's *Generation X* and *Shampoo Planet* have persuaded his publishers, legitimately enough, that here is a man who can speak for the 1990s, who understands what drives the children of the flower children in a world without politics or sex. But *Microserfs* displays none of those books' knowingness, none of their wit. The feeble narrative does little more than hold together a collection of Coupland's own potted philosophical ruminations about the microchip age and those who have grown up in it.

■ MICROSERFS
By Douglas Coupland
Flamingo, £9.99

Coupland: a nerd is a nerd

Thus: "Michael said something cool today... 'We've reached a critical mass point where the amount of memory we have externalized in books and databases now exceeds the amount of memory contained within our collective biological bodies... We've peripheralised our essence'."

Well yes: possibly we have at that. As an *aperçu* it is pretty enough, but it is meaningless unless there is someone to point out that the body of recorded knowledge has been greater than that held in individual heads since a couple of years after Gutenberg got into his stride. For although the philosophising about sex, commerce, parents and the interior life of the nerd is spread fairly equally about the characters — nerdish narrator; wise, shiatsu-practising girlfriend; besuited silicon whiz-kid; body-builder with religious kinks to work out; and all the iconic rest of them — there is never any edge, no needle, no conflict: whoever speaks the lines, the thoughts are Coupland's own.

And after a while Coupland's insistence that his characters double up as lifeless nerds and sassy bulletin-board savants grates; it is like watching one of those sit-coms which depend on the purposefully lamebrained being given unwontedly witty lines.

Nerds are nerds: speaking Coupland's lines, they just become unbelievable nerds.

JOHN DIAMOND

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Christmas Books: Brian Alderson on Tolkien as artist; Tom Pocock on the Royal Navy; Sean French on Levin, Frayn and Pritchett; Fiona Pitt-Kethley on a history of bottoms

CRIME ROUND-UP

Wise to the city streets

■ AN IMAGE TO DIE FOR
By Mike Philips
HarperCollins, £14.99

SAM READ, journalist and reluctant sleuth, is black. More important, he belongs to the inner city; he could win a Nobel Prize for street wisdom. His job, for a television company making miscarriage-of-justice stories, is to trace a missing black layabout who might have committed the murder for which another man is in jail. The young woman researcher on the programme is stabbed to death: Read's search for the fugitive unearths deeper issues. He moves effortlessly and perceptively between media-land and the multi-cultures of decaying inner London. This is Mike Philips's best novel, brutal and caring, totally authentic.

■ LIVING PROOF
By John Harvey
Heinemann, £14.99

IN *Living Proof*, nasty things happen to a brash American feminist crime writer, Kathy Jordan, guest of honour at an international crime-fiction festival in Nottingham (any similarity to a real convention held there recently is purely intentional). Could it be that writers of the cosier English whodunnit school have it in for the rude upstart? Inspector Charlie Resnick, less gloomy than usual, has to protect the diva while investigating a series of viciously perverted, apparently unconnected attacks on local men, leaving the latest victim running bleeding through the streets wearing only one sock. Resnick's personal sensitivies grow more interesting by the book. So does Nottingham.

■ ACID CASUALS
By Nicholas Blincoe
Serpent's Tail, £8.99

NOT A book for the faint-hearted. Estela, who used to be Paul but has just had the operation, returns to Manchester after ten years with orders from her Colombian masters to bump off her former boss, a club owner and money launderer. She encounters: sex (various combinations); drugs (many varieties); violence (bloody); coppers (bent); and a selection of Mancunian lowlifers and sleazebags with names such as Junk, Yen and the Taxman. So why am I recommending *Acid Casuals*? Because it is written with a confidence and power rare in a first novel. Blincoe evokes the slimy areas of nocturnal Manchester with passion; the dialogue is sharp and mega-hip; and he manages to make his main cast not only believable but ultimately sad and sympathetic.

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RECORDINGS

NEW ON CD: Kissin's infant talent; at home with the folk of Britten; Springsteen is no Woody Guthrie

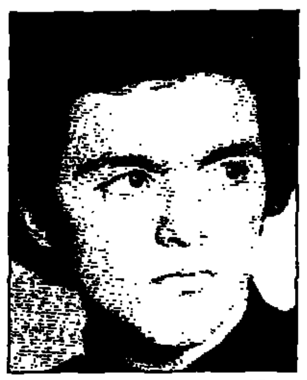
ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ CHOPIN
Piano Concertos Nos 1 & 2
Kissin/Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra/Kitaenko
RCA Victor Red Seal
09026-68378-2★★★

CAN A recital given only 11 years ago by a 12-year-old have legendary status? RCA obviously thinks so, for this recording of a pre-pubescent Evgeny Kissin playing the two Chopin concertos is confidently billed "The Legendary 1984 Moscow Concert".

Undoubtedly that concert in the Grand Hall of Moscow Conservatory on March 27, 1984, was an exceptional event. Kissin, now 24, is a prodigiously gifted pianist, and it was here that he came to international attention. Dmitri Kitaenko begins the E Minor Concerto (No 1) somewhat boisterously, with emphatic, four-square accents. You fear that the 12-year-old is going to be engulfed, but when he enters, it is clear that he is going to be a match for his accompanists. His playing has tremendous strength, far exceeding what you would expect from such a slight frame. It is astonishingly assured, too: he knows how to spin an elegant line and how to achieve a shift of perspective between one phrase and the next. Both the drama and the poetry are there. In the F Minor Concerto (No 2), the filigree detail is equally impressive, but here again it is swept up in a tidal wave of youthful energy.


Kissin: prodigiously gifted

The orchestral playing is slightly rough and ready, but perfectly serviceable, and the disc is completed with three encores, including a breathtaking Chopin waltz. Kissin's playing has advanced in maturity over the intervening years, but in 1984 it was already exceptional. Legendary or otherwise, this was a remarkable concert that can now be enjoyed by a far wider audience.

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ BRITTEN
The Folk Songs
Langridge/Lott/Johnson, etc
Collins Classics 70392
(3 CDs)★★★

BLESSED Cecilia is being generous to Benjamin Britten this year as her feast day and his birthday approach. A year ago I was singing the praises here of Hyperion's *Complete Folksong Arrangements*: now Collins Classics, as part of its continuing Britten Edition, has issued an even more complete, three-disc collection.

The extra booty consists of ten previously unpublished and revelatory arrangements, released by the Britten Estate. *The Bitter Withy*, an ambiguous and incomplete setting made in 1962 for the London Boy Singers (and here sung by the Wenhaston Boys Choir with Philip Langridge) stands in the dark shadows of both *Little Sir William* and *Abraham and Isaac*. By its side, *Greensleeves* and *The Holly and the Ivy* are balm to the soul, while Langridge and Felicity Lott gleefully enjoy the duetting of *Soldier won't you marry me?* and *The Deaf Woman's Courtship*.

There is a puzzle here, too. An unidentified song setting appears on the second disc: nobody has so far tracked down the song or its provenance, so Christopher Van Kampen plays it on his cello in the hope that someone will recognise it. There are also 14 orchestral arrangements: Thomas Allen and the Northern Sinfonia conducted by Steuart Bedford give a tally-ho to *Le roi s'en va t'en chasse* and bring in the melancholy voice of the cello to sing with Allen in *The Salley Gardens*.

The fact that the piccolo's piping in *The Plough Boy* adds surprisingly little to the original piano-accompanied version makes its own comment on the quality of the accompanying in these recordings. Graham Johnson's fingers fairly whistle their way through the plough boy's ditty: he and harpist Osian Ellis are so deeply under the skin of his music that it is very much their contribution that sets these performances apart.

Johnson knows just how to unfurl the layers of expressive allusion in *The Ash Grove*, how to pace the gentle rocking of *Waly, waly*, and how to match the colour and weight of the voices of both Langridge and Lott. Her singing is exquisite, while Langridge's *Foggy, foggy dew* epitomises the depth of understanding of the swirling mists of the English language to which both Britten and all these performers are so sensitive.

Lott: in exquisite voice

OPERA

John Higgins

■ JERRY HADLEY
The Age of bel canto
English Chamber Orchestra/Bonynge
RCA 09026 68030 2★★★

☐ FREDERICA VON STADE
Offenbach arias and overtures
Scottish Chamber Orchestra/de Almeida
RCA 09026 68116 2★★

FEW CAN beat Richard Bonynge when it comes to sifting out the vocal delicacies of the last century. His skill is stamped all over the new recital by the American tenor Jerry Hadley, and the accompaniment he secures from the ECO, on top form, is as sympathetic as it is luscious.

The opening section is a reminder that one of Hadley's earliest recordings was *Anna Bolena* with Sutherland in the title role. Here he is back with Donizetti, solo. There is honey in the voice for Nemorino and for the less well-known lament of Dom Sébastien, quite properly sung in French, from the opera of the same name.

But it is the following French group which gives the record its touch of true class. Hadley's near faultless technique allows him to negotiate all the demands of Georges Brown's cavatina from Boïeldieu's *La Dame blanche*. He has the weight for the imaginings of Gérald in Delibes's *Lakmé*. And he exerts his full charm — and art — on the simplest of song by Planquette (*Les Cloches de Corneville*) and Thomas (*Mignon*). In such arias he shows himself to be the natural successor of Nicolai Gedda.

Add in Halévy's *L'eclair*, in which the tenor hero is blinded at the start by the lightning of the title, conclude with a sturdy dose of Balfe, and there is an hour and a quarter of highly enjoyable listening, marred only by an uncomfortable shot at Rossini.

Frederica von Stade could have done with a Bonynge on her expedition into Offenbach. Antonio de Almeida is an expert on that composer and gratitude is due to him for exhuming such a rare piece as the overture to *La Romance de la rose*. But he emerges as a dull conductor and the SCO cannot hold up a candle to their English counterparts.

Von Stade has fun with the couplets of the "maid" in *Pomme d'api* and glides easily into the Métella's magical waltz from *La Vie Parisienne*. Her French is excellent and her singing always graceful, but almost too refined. Her little girls do not flirt enough and the older ones, such as the Grand Duchess of Gerolstein, are insufficiently knowing. This is sanitised Offenbach. It needs a whiff of cigar smoke and the promise of the flash of a suspender.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
The Ghost Of Tom Joad
Columbia 481650★

LIKE other rock stars in the supertax bracket — the Stones, U2, the Pretenders — Bruce Springsteen has come to the conclusion that, for the moment, less is more. Armed with an acoustic guitar, a keyboard, a harmonica and a handful of occasional, discreet backing musicians, he casts himself in the role of a humble folk singer on *The Ghost Of Tom Joad*.

The album paints a picture of depressing times in the depressed heartland of blue-collar America and, although ostensibly inspired by a character in John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes Of Wrath*, it is haunted, more accurately, by the ghost of Woody Guthrie. "My daddy worked the furnaces, kept 'em hotter than hell," Springsteen sings in *Youngstown*, a long-winded narrative about the generations of men toiling in an iron-ore plant.

There are songs about illegal immigrants ensnared by drug barons, the hopes and fears of a rent boy cruising Balboa Park, and the border patrol cop who searches in vain for the lost love of his life. But even sadder than the characters in the songs is the tuneless, dolorous mumble that Springsteen affects for this low-key enterprise. Uniformly slow and crushingly dull, it is a collection of performances bereft of any spark of life. Even the stark acoustic minimalism of *Nebraska* seems lively by comparison.

Springsteen is the big name, but contemporaries such as Dave Alvin and Steve Earle have both quietly ploughed similar territory to far better effect. At least they sounded as if they were awake.

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ NIRVANA
Singles
Geffen GED 24901 (boxed set: six singles)★★

ALTHOUGH *Smells Like Teen Spirit* will go down as one of the great songs of the decade, *Nirvana* have been generally underestimated as a singles band. Yet despite the group's fierce guitar sound and the unsettling imagery of Kurt Cobain's words, numbers such as *Come As You Are*, *All Apologies*, *In Bloom* and *Heart-Shaped Box* have the melodic thrust and instant, self-contained appeal of classic pop songs.

Nirvana: classic pop songs

This boxed set gathers together all six of the European singles that were released between 1991 and 1993 from the albums *Nevermind* and *In Utero* with their original artwork. Six of the 13 B-sides do not appear on any album, while most of the others are otherwise unavailable live versions of album tracks.

At about £20 this is hardly an essential purchase. But isn't that what Christmas is all about?

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ KEITH JARRETT
At The Blue Note — The Complete Recordings
ECM 1575-80 (6 CDs)★

WITH Keith Jarrett everything comes down to a question of proportion. Not content with preserving a mere selection from last year's Standards Trio residency in Greenwich Village, he has chosen to issue all of the performances from all six sets.

Jarrett's penchant for the monumental has always aroused heated emotions. In some quarters he is fêted as the ultimate keyboard improviser; others, less generously, regard his rhapsodisings as an expression not of genius, but of monumental self-love.

What is truly frustrating about this collection is that it contains passages of uncompromisingly stylish technique, from the ebb and flow of his unaccompanied prelude to *Autumn Leaves*, to the boppish group interplay on *Oleo* and the lusty gospel chords that underpin *Things Ain't What They Used To Be*. Yet, time after time, Jarrett's cascading right-hand lines batter the listener into submission.

Autumn Leaves itself provides an example: after Gary Peacock and Jack DeJohnette make their entry, Jarrett locks them into a sequence of vamps that adds nothing to the emotional thrust of the piece and simply drags matters out for more than 20 minutes. Disc Two makes the strongest impression, with the astutely varied tempos of *I'm Old Fashioned*, *If I Were a Bell* and *Skylark*. Elsewhere the homogenising effect of the trio grows all too apparent over the long haul.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

NEW ON VIDEO: Marriage down under; Hamlet from the Dark Ages; magic at Christmas

■ MURIEL'S WEDDING
Buena Vista, 15, 1994

AN UGLY duckling becomes a swan in this queasy Aussie comedy that pursues its dual goals — laughter and tears — with the finesse of a bull in a china shop. Writer-director P. J. Hogan has a caricaturist's gift, which serves him well in the early stages; but once clumsy Muriel decamps to Sydney, the aggressive melodrama becomes hard to take. Toni Collette makes a fair attempt at keeping Muriel a human being; but Rachel Griffiths survives best as her live-wire pal. Available to rent.

Flower power: Rachel Griffiths (left) and Toni Collette in P. J. Hogan's Australian comedy, *Muriel's Wedding*

■ PLUCKING THE DAISY
Arrow, 15, 1956

BRIGITTE BARDOT, a general's daughter, is thrown out of the parental nest for writing a saucy book. Hard times follow, but a striptease contest appears to offer an answer. Behind the English title lies *'En effeuillant la Marguerite*, directed by Marc Allégret, a popular film in its day, though it seems unfunny now. Dubbing does not improve matters. Daniel Gélin co-stars, and if you must know, the lady takes off most of her clothes twice.

■ PRINCE OF JUTLAND
First Class Films, 15, 1993

THIS IS the story of Hamlet according to the chronicles of Saxo Grammaticus, set in 6th-century Denmark and Scotland. Sex, violence, madness: it could have made gripping movie fare. But veteran Danish director Gabriel Axel (*Babette's Feast*) goes for the dour, pared-down look and gives viewers little to chew on. The cast, chiefly British, are very able: Gabriel Byrne glitters with evil as the usurper of Denmark's throne, Helen Mirren supplies femininity as Geruth (alias Gertrude), while Christian Bale grows into his part as Amled, the prince who feigns madness. The film's best hope is with English literature students.

■ EXOTICA
FoxGuild, 18, 1994

ATOM EGOYAN presents an inventive set of variations on his pet theme: voyeurism. In a nightclub plastered with jungle foliage, gentlemen sit lost in fantasy while scanty ladies dance on tables. All characters are fuelled by desires, crippled by loss, though the plot matters less than the overall mood. Funny, audacious, often beautiful. Available to rent.

■ MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET
Fox, U, 1994

THE 1947 original is a seasonal perennial in America. Writer-producer John Hughes updates some details, but leaves unchanged the story about a department store Santa (Richard Attenborough) who believes himself the genuine article. The sentiment level is now higher than ever: this is a New York of affluent white faces, and no sign of the homeless. Les Mayfield's direction emphasises the clichés, and the cast, bar Attenborough and young Mara Wilson, is unexceptional. But if you want a traditional Hollywood Christmas, this is the only recent film that will satisfy.

GEOFF BROWN

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The feelgood factor will be high if you choose to do your Christmas shopping at London Zoo this year. Not only will you be able to choose gifts from 46 stalls, you will also be helping to preserve the Aquarium and the Zoo's renowned programme for saving endangered species. For £5, readers of *The Times* can buy tickets for the special Zoobazaar preview which starts at 6pm on Tuesday, November 28. There will be mulled wine and mince pies plus plenty of time to browse.

Readers who attend the preview will be able to enter a fundraising raffle with a first prize of two nights in Paris for two people. Winners of the Paris trip, courtesy of EuroDrive, will take their car to the French capital by train on Le Shuttle and stay, on a room-only basis, at the Frantour Berthier hotel, located between Montmartre and the Champs Elysees. It has an indoor swimming pool, four restaurants and an underground car park.

There are three runner-up prizes of a case of red or white wine from the prestigious estate Baron Philippe de Rothschild.

LONDON ZOO

London Zoo is donating two further prizes: an Animal Adoption, which includes a free ticket to the Zoo and a photograph of the winner's favourite species; and a Lifewatch membership, which includes four issues of Lifewatch magazine, invitations to members' events and a ticket for Whipsnade Wild Animal Park. The stallholders are also contributing to the raffle so there will be lots of prizes to win.

Zoobazaar is at the Regency Suite, London Zoo, Outer Circle, Regents Park, London, NW1. Preview: Tues, November 28 6pm-9pm, tickets £5. Public day: Wed, November 29, 10am-5pm, tickets £2.

To book your ticket and for a list of stallholders, please call 0171 722 7662.

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SKIING: How Britons are reaching standards they thought beyond them, and a round of winter golf

ADRIAN MYERS

Ian Savage, a detective inspector from London, in action in the Alps. His quest for ski perfection has earned him an instructor's qualification

The downhill flying squad

Ian Savage has been catching criminals in and around London for 28 years. Soon, the 47-year-old former Flying Squad officer will be spending his winters teaching Britons to ski. For several years, Detective Inspector Savage has devoted all his holidays to visiting Martin Rowe's ski "university" near Les Arcs in the French Alps.

Mr Rowe's Optimum Ski Courses are run from a chalet in the village of Le Pre, which links into the main Les Arcs system. They are designed to get skiers off the intermediate plateau, which most British skiers reach but rarely better.

Mr Savage has attended seven Optimum courses, and at the end of the 1995 skiing season he gained his reward, passing his Grade 3 British Association of Ski Instructors (Basi) exam, which qualifies him to teach. So well did he perform that his examiners have urged him to try for the more technical Grade 2 qualification.

In February he will spend a month's holiday teaching at the ski school at Soldeu in Andorra. And when he retires from the police, probably in two years, the man who did not start skiing until he was 38 will become a full-time instructor.

"I'm hooked," he says. "I started late and now I want to ski as much as I can. I'm fascinated by the technical side of the sport and want to develop my skills and help others to build theirs."

Mr Savage may be joined by another Optimum follower, Bernie Simpson, a 45-year-old ship's captain who has spent about 20 years sailing in the Far East, is trying to gain his instructor's cap. He, too, has made long journeys to the Continent to take advantage of the expert advice given by Mr Rowe, who also works for the Basi as an "instructors' instructor", and his colleagues, Phil James and Chris Walker.

Mr Savage and Mr Simpson are special cases. But they show what can be achieved by intermediate, and even advanced skiers who decide to go back to school. And both derive huge enjoyment from enhancing their skills after years stuck in a rut.

One of Optimum's secrets of success is the individual attention it gives to skiers. It puts skiers of similar standard in groups of no more than eight, often smaller. Mr Rowe quizzes potential recruits in advance by phone to get some idea of their abilities.

Once out on the slopes, a group will often be taken back to basics to iron out long-established faults before the instructor begins work on specialist and on off-piste techniques.

The chalet employs a photographer (who doubles as barman) to video-film group performances two or three times a week. Over early evening drinks, progress is analysed as the instructor shows on film what is going right and wrong. Each course runs for six days, four hours a day. Because skiing involves a range of skills, Optimum breaks a pupil's techniques into segments and works on each individually.

Every day at Optimum starts with a warm-up and stretching session at the top of the first lift. The banter usually starts then and continues through the day and evening.

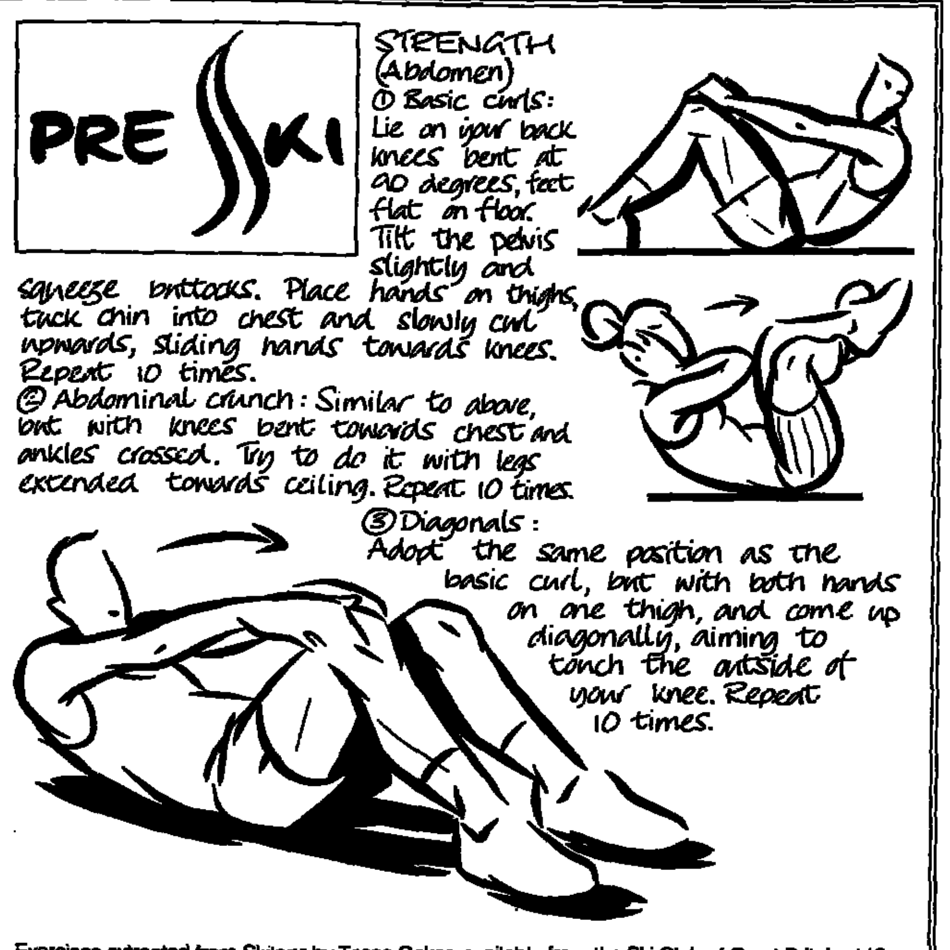
Le Pré's setting is superb, lying at the bottom of one of Europe's longest runs from the top of the Aiguille Rouge, Les Arcs' jewel, 6,700ft down to the door of the chalet. About 40 per cent of Optimum's customers return.

The chalet constantly tries to broaden its activities; a recent development is the introduction for its hot-shots of race-training courses, taken in November by John Clark, coach of the Scottish ski team.

PHILIP WEBSTER

- *The author a guest at Optimum's Chalet Tarentaise. Food and board costs £345, and a skill course, or race-training course, costs £150. Optimum in the UK, 01992 561085; in France, 0033 79 06 91 26.*
- *Travel arrangements can be made individually or through Optimum, which provides travel from station to chalet. The author travelled by Eurostar (01233 617575)to Paris, TGV to Lyon, and hire car to the chalet. (Buses and trains available from Lyon).*

JANE SPENCER



STRENGTH
(Abdomen)

① Basic curls: Lie on your back knees bent at 90 degrees, feet flat on floor. Tilt the pelvis slightly and squeeze buttocks. Place hands on thighs, tuck chin into chest and slowly curl upwards, sliding hands towards knees. Repeat 10 times.

② Abdominal crunch: Similar to above, but with knees bent towards chest and ankles crossed. Try to do it with legs extended towards ceiling. Repeat 10 times.

③ Diagonals: Adopt the same position as the basic curl, but with both hands on one thigh, and come up diagonally, aiming to touch the outside of your knee. Repeat 10 times.

Exercises extracted from *Skilegs* by Tessa Coker, available from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AF, £2.50 inc. p&p. *The Times* cannot be held responsible for any injuries resulting from or sustained while carrying out the excercises and movements described.

Rough play in the snow

In March, the thoughts of the citizens of Hemsedal in Norway turn from the slopes and down to the valley where preparation begins for the annual winter golf tournament, *writes Graham Duffill.*

Golf and polo are played on the frozen lake at St Moritz, but Hemsedal, 136 miles north of Oslo, is the only ski resort to manufacture greens out of fields deep in snow. Played over a nine-hole course, with three par three holes, four par fours, and a mighty 517 yards par five, it is a true test of golf under bizarre conditions.

The scorecard records that the rules of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews are valid, but applied with local winter rules, which are: balls are red or yellow; ice and snow are not casual water; teeing is allowed on the fairway, and on the putting whites (greens) loose lumps of snow can be cleared away.

The fairways were compacted by the piste bashers that prepare the ski slopes and had a "corduroy" surface on which the ball sat up nicely. Stray off the fairway, though, and all that remained was a hole in the snow. In virgin rough, with the snow about two metres deep, the bigger danger was disappearing waist deep.

The greens, or whites, are masterpieces of construction. The snow is first flattened by the piste machine then stamped down by foot and skis. Snow cement, a chemical compound used on downhill race courses to make the snow as hard as possible, is added and the final surface is created by a machine borrowed from an ice rink which smooths the ice. It is still hard to get a true line on a putt and the ball bobbles through heel marks.

SIGMUND KROVEL-VELLE

Snow balls: local rules apply

I left a suggestion for consideration by the committee that snow shoes of the tennis racket variety should be left by each green and worn for putting.

In the sunshine the *Vintergolf* tournament, played over two days, was extremely enjoyable and not too cold. The winners turned in scores comparable to those they would have made on a normal course and, if it didn't take 900 man-hours to make the course every time it snowed, it could even catch on.

- *The author was a guest of Hemsedal Tourist Authority. Crystal Holidays (0181-399 5144) arrange holidays. March prices are about £500 for full board for a week in a hotel, or £300 to £350 in an apartment.*
- *This season's tournament, the fourth, will be played next March 16-17.*
- *Flights from Gatwick to Dagali which has a 90-minute transfer.*
- *Norwegian Tourist Board (0171-839 6255). Hemsedal Tourist Office (00 47 32 06 01 56).*

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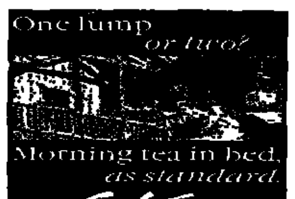

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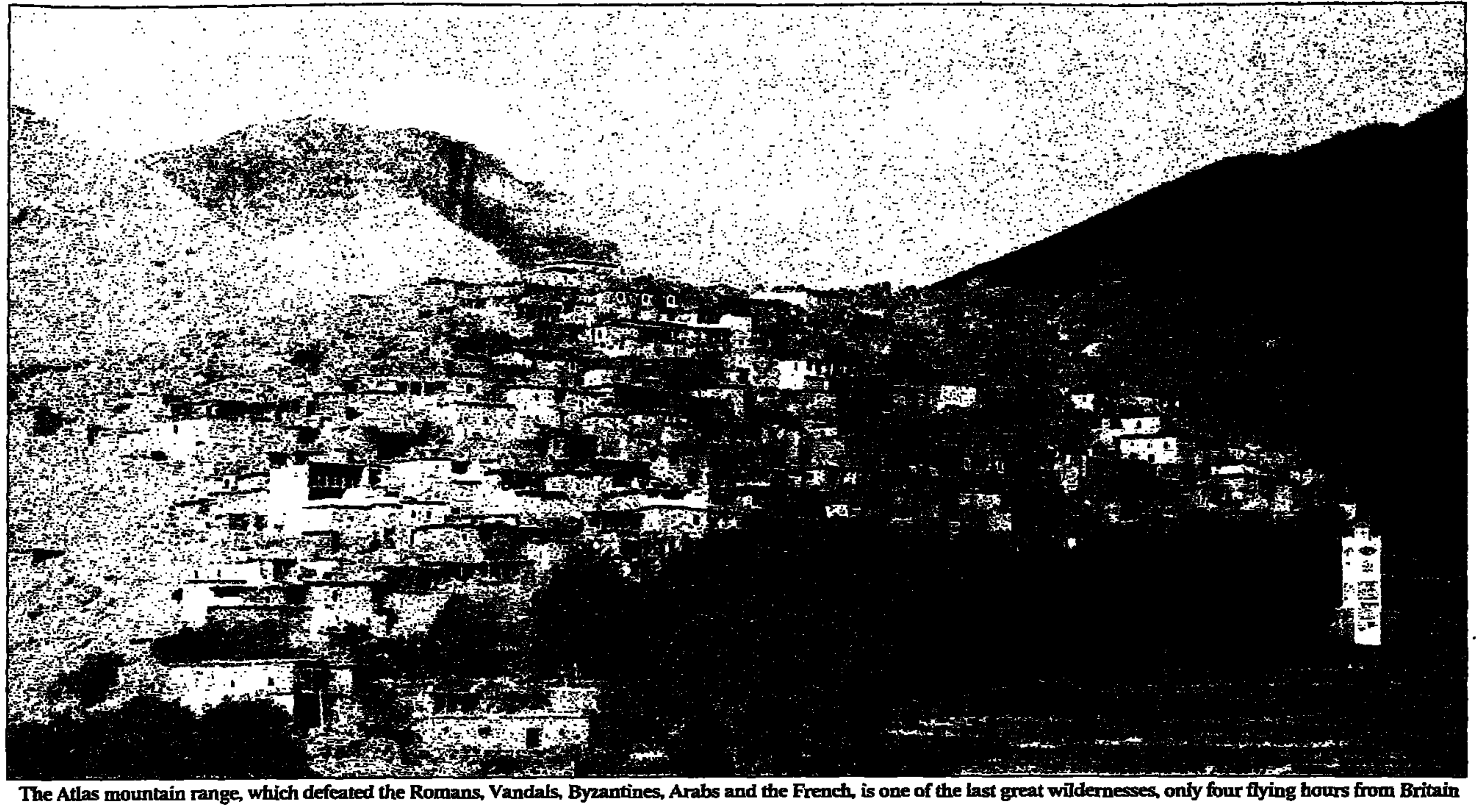
MOROCCO: **Alice Thomson** is surprised by an Atlas mountain trek; **Brian MacArthur** on Marrakesh


TONY STONE

The Atlas mountain range, which defeated the Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, Arabs and the French, is one of the last great wildernesses, only four flying hours from Britain

Have bikini, will cross Africa's peaks

A few days spent pottering around the Atlas mountains with my sister sounded like the ideal way to unwind. The brochure mentioned almond groves, quaint village squares where one could sip mint tea, steaming tajines for dinner, porters, white stallions and massages at the Residence de la Roseraie to complete our rest.

As we sweltered on the plane to Marrakesh, we smugly told our neighbours that we were heading for the cool High Atlas, and unlike them would not have to suffer oily carpet merchants in stuffy souks, recorded muezzins waking us up at 4am, shady arms dealers smooching up to us in smart hotels or vicious snake charmers tripping us up. Instead, we would be playing a little tennis, riding in neatly pressed jodhpurs and sunbathing under lemon trees.

There had been a postal strike in Britain, and we hadn't received our final itinerary but we weren't worried. Our rucksacks were packed with floral dresses, gingham shorts, silver bikinis, and cocktail swivel sticks just in case. Sunglasses perched on top of our cleanly washed hair.

We should have been suspicious when our guides met us at the airport with enough kit for an assault on Everest, but we were too busy looking out of the window on the four-hour drive past orange groves, camels, kasbahs and whole families perched on motorbikes.

It was only when we arrived at Asni in the Ait Ouzzadan valley and met our donkey that we realised something was wrong. The guide politely told us that we were carrying our own rucksacks and our donkey would carry the food. After half an hour's discussion, the long-suffering creature was carrying everything. Then, something unknown on previous trips to Morocco, it started to pour with rain.

The guides were stunned when they realised we had no waterproofs, torches or compasses. Hadn't anyone told us this was serious trekking and we would be climbing mountains? We were given intricate maps, did we want crampons? Ropes were harnessed, pickaxes assembled. They had enormous supplies of medicines and showed us their credentials from every climbing school in Europe.

Our aghast Berber leader, Mohammed, asked us whether we realised the dangers of this North African mountain range. Had we forgotten that when the Romans extended their arms across the Mediterranean, it was the Atlas mountains that defeated them. Nor did the Vandals, the Byzantines or the Arabs fare any better. The French found the vast peaks and fiercely independent Berber tribes impossible to conquer. More recently, climbers had died on these peaks.

We changed into our only pairs of jeans and began walking along a mule track towards the rearing snowscape. For five days, in the worst summer storms Morocco had seen for more than 20 years, we walked through thick grey cloud, across swollen rivers, through sodden walnut groves and across the Tizi Messik pass. It should have been disastrous. It was fantastic.

The High Atlas mountains are one of the last great wildernesses within four flying hours of London. Closer than Penzance is by train, they leave the Alps, the Dolomites and the Pyrenees looking dirty and flattened. Only two roads manage to make it across the vast peaks to the Sahara. They slog past vast waterfalls and through spectacular green valleys with hamlets camouflaged along their rocky sides before wiggling across the snow-clad peaks and reaching out for the desert beyond.

Our Berber guides chatted away in French, and when we reached the rivers they let us ride the donkey. They lent us waterproofs, penknives, cigarettes, and found us hooded robes and slippers for the evenings. Berbers are renowned for their hospitality. Most nights we stayed in their cousins' immaculate homes which looked like Habitat showcases with walls washed down in turquoise and jade, windowframes painted red, wrought-iron candlesticks, layers of woven rugs and roses in jugs.

Our other guide, his cousin Hassan, would then settle down away from the pouring rain to build a fire, and three hours later we would be eating a steaming vegetable couscous, kebabs or roast chicken washed down with sugared mint tea.

They cooked everything for hours, including the packet of chicken and noodle soup. To keep warm while we waited, we would go for another walk up a mountain. Then, just as we were crawling into our sleeping bags, the village chief would arrive with a tajine of marrows, carrots, onions and vast hunks of goat or lamb, which we would be expected to finish — and a hot brick to keep our feet warm.

On the fourth day we finally admitted that we had had enough of cheese spread and flat bread for breakfast. They immediately produced pancakes and honey. Scrambled eggs were no problem; yoghurt and peaches could be acquired. The villages, it seemed, grew everything except McDonald's, Coke and chocolate, and provided potatoes, beans and eggs for our lunchtime salad niçoise.

Our path led across three valleys that had never seen a road, a television, a Mars Bar or pictures of the Princess of Wales. Evening conversation with the villagers roamed from gardening tips, to discussions about their house extensions and gossip about forthcoming marriages and tax evasion. We would then be given letters to take on to the next villages.

From previous experience in Moroccan cities, I was worried that our two guides might want to wangle their way into our sleeping bags, but although they slept in the same rooms as us, the most they did was complain about us sleeptalking.

We wore three dresses to bed every night, but at sunrise we soon warmed up. The views were astounding: the valleys would shimmer. Children chanted in schools and we passed row upon row of runner beans, irises, almond blossoms and fig trees. Girls balancing piles of twigs on their backs and wearing old plastic shoes would join us, chattering away. The only thing any child asked for was an aspirin for a headache.

On the last night we came down to the trekking village of Imlil, where we fell on the dusty bars of chocolate, had hot showers and went along to the marketplace crammed with saffron, bobble hats, mules and cooking pans. For the final descent to the road, the streams were so swollen our donkeys had to swim across while we clung on.

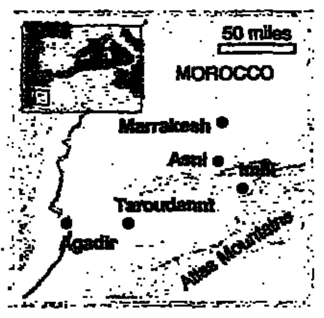
We arrived at the four-star Residence de la Roseraie dripping on their carpets, but they were unabashed by our muddy hair, torn jeans and sodden socks, and provided endless cups of hot chocolate followed by chilled white wine, roasted almonds and home-made crisps.

They whisked all our clothes away, ran us vast baths and massaged our legs. The sewage system was having a problem, so bunches of mint hung in every room, but the moment the sun came out they rushed mounds of towels to the swimming-pool.

The hotel, hidden from the road between Marrakesh and Tarroudannt by gardens of roses and lime trees, was built by the French for wild-boar expeditions and as an oasis from the heat of Agadir. It was packed with a mixture of hearty English-county types who had come to ride while waiting for the next hunting season, several Tory MPs, a clutch of European ambassadors, a chic Italian couple with matching children, and a couple of bedraggled mistresses on their romantic weekend shivering in Chanel jackets.

The sunbathing had obviously been a washout for the week but they had learnt how to play bridge, the cook had been taught how to cook full English breakfasts and we all learnt how to bake pastilla, a pigeon-filled sugared pastry.

We came back to Heathrow a healthy pink, without a single silver bracelet, extortionately expensive carpet or stomach upset. The final instructions had arrived, and I'm glad we hadn't seen them or the weather reports. They would have put us off.



Walk on the wild side

☐ The author was a guest of Steppes East. A week in Morocco with Steppes East costs from £620, including flights, one night half-board at the Tichka in Marrakesh, a four-day trek through the Atlas mountains with full board, and two nights' half board at the Residence de la Roseraie.

Arabian nights in Churchill's favourite hotel

Short city breaks are a booming growth area of the British travel market — but few bring so great a sense of adventure as a flight to Marrakesh. Within five hours on a Saturday morning you are whisked to an exotic, medieval world, entering from the desert through ancient red walls a city of mosques and minarets, palaces and palm trees, where women still wear the veil and muezzin summon the faithful to prayer.

Mention Marrakesh and those in the know will ask if you are staying at "that hotel". That hotel is La Mamounia and, yes, I was — and it was the most fascinating weekend break I have ever had. For Sir Winston Churchill this was the loveliest spot in the whole world, a remark he made to Franklin D Roosevelt in the Mamounia gardens in 1943 as they admired a Moroccan sunset that was turning the distant Atlas mountains a fiery red.

It was here that Churchill painted his only picture during the Second World War and he subsequently returned regularly to paint the lush gardens of olive groves and citrus trees, mimosa and hibiscus, bougainvillea and jacaranda — several of which now hang in the Churchill museum. The Churchill suite, now brings the man uncannily to life.

It would be all too easy to spend three days in Marrakesh without leaving the Mamounia. Yet that would be to miss the sights and treasures of a remarkable city. Quite the most memorable is the Djemaa el Fna, the city's main square, where executions were staged until the 19th century. Today it has an air of carnival, set with stalls selling fruit and vegetables, herbs and spices, electrical goods and handicrafts. Women buy spells and potions, and dentists display extracted teeth to advertise their prowess.

At dusk acrobats, snake charmers, boxers and monkey tamers vie for audiences with storytellers, preachers, musicians and folk healers, each surrounded by jostling throngs. By night the square is a huge outdoor eating arena with dozens of stalls selling food cooked on the spot. Seen from the balcony of the Café de Paris, with clouds of smoke from the barbecues billowing into the night sky, it is a sight as if from the Middle Ages.

Leading from the square is a labyrinth of souks, a world of small alleyways, set with shops on either side, thronged with Moroccans, spluttering motorbikes and groaning donkeys negotiating awkward corners with reckless disregard for shoppers — and souks for almost every commodity known to man. It is best to hire an official guide who will repel over-insistent shopkeepers and ensure that you don't get lost.

At night, off one of these silent, medieval alleyways, as the cats looted the rubbish left from the day's trading and suspicious eyes followed the Westerners, we were escorted by a costumed guide to a door in a wall. Outside there was a faint sense of menace. Within was a sumptuous 15th-century palace, now the Stylia restaurant, decorated with Islamic mosaics, magnificent carpets, low-lying tables — and a Moroccan feast of salads, pastilla (pigeon and almond pie in puff pastry) and succulent, tender couscous of lamb, raisins and vegetables.

It is easy within three days to see the main sights of Marrakesh — among them the exquisite 19th-century Bahia Palace and the 16th-century Saadian tombs. Another must is Yves St Laurent's tropical Jardin Majorelle, an oasis of tranquillity with its birds, ponds, palms, cypresses, bamboos and banana trees.

Yet the Mamounia constantly summons you back, whether to stroll through the gardens, laze and lunch by the pool or to gamble in the casino with its 129 slot machines.

The hotel has five restaurants. At Le Marocain we got a feast — a starter of 12 salads, followed by a soft and succulent tajine of chicken cooked for 24 hours in a clay pot on charcoal, and could not manage pudding.

A dentist displays his work

The Mamounia's rooms are comfortable without being overly modern, spacious balconies overlook the gardens, the service is impeccable without being deferential, and the concierges meet any request. This is a hotel that is worth saving up for — for a treat, anniversary celebration or a honeymoon.

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of La Mamounia (0800-181123) and GB Airways (0345-222111 — Linkline). Single rooms at the Mamounia start from £174 a night, doubles from £180. Flights leave Heathrow on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 9.20am. The low Superapex return fare is £268 (except December 15-31).

☐ Cadogan Holidays (01703 332661) offers a week at Mamounia from £960.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

TRIGRAM
(b) A (nonsense) word of three letters used in the study of learning or memory. "This study is a re-evaluation of the meaningfulness of all possible three-letter combinations of the Roman alphabet of the form consonant-vowel-consonant. It is herewith proposed to call these combinations trigrams, and in view of their form to further specify them as CVC trigrams."

SKEET
(c) A form of clay-pigeon shooting in which targets are projected at a variety of shooting angles in a semicircular range. Also a clay pigeon. Proposed (erroneously) for the name of the bizarre sport as an old-fashioned form of the verb shoot.

TAMURE
(c) A Tahitian dance, the ori Tahiti, a transliteration of the Tahitian. "Ah! The tamure! which was to the hula as whisky to milk."

TURR
(a) Newfoundland dialect for a seabird, also spelled tuir and turrh, elsewhere called a murre. Newfoundland vocabulary is rich and strange. "The seabirds here called stearin, turr and tickle-ace are the birds known elsewhere as tern, murre and kittiwake."

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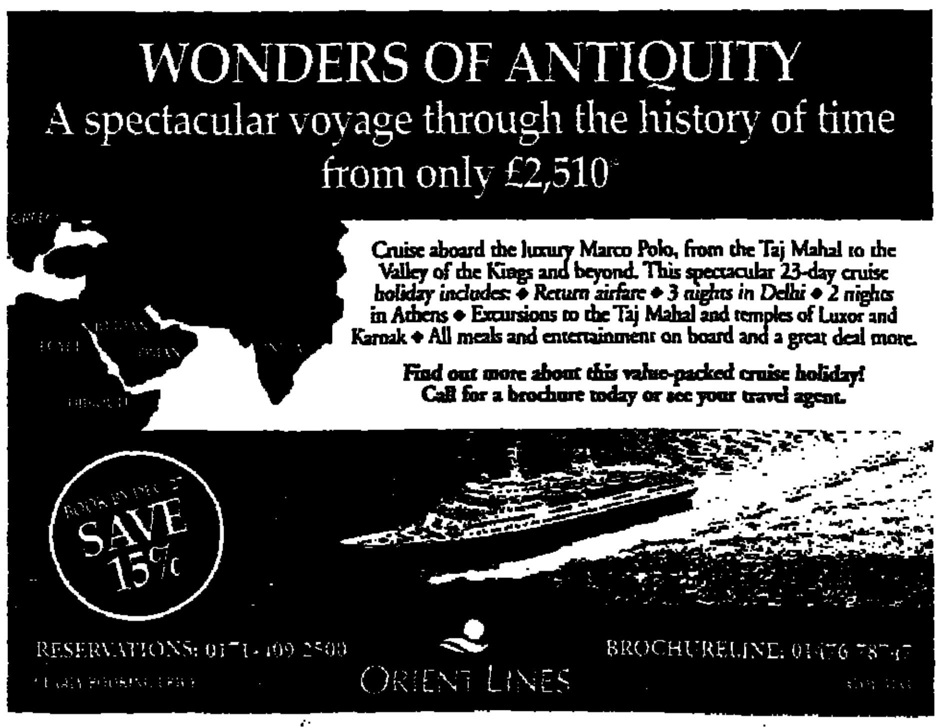
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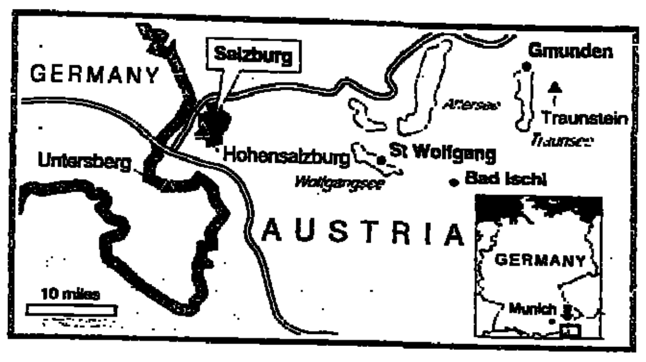
AUSTRIA: Even without the music, Salzburg's beauty would keep it popular; subterranean healing powers



All this and the sound of Mozart

Had not a single note of music ever been played there, it would still be a dream city. Salzburg is everything that Germany — at least in the British stereotype — is not: a spun-sugar confection of grace and frivolity, cakes, flowers, enjoyment and elegance.

The river comes racing down from the high Alps, grey water between green hills. To the east, there is the wooded mass of the Kapuzinerberg, crowned with the Capuchins' ochre cloister; to the west, in sequence, the Monks' Hill, the Nuns' Hill and — towering over the streets, domes and squares of the town — the great unspoilt fairytale fortress of the Hohensalzburg.

Even if the sound of music had never been heard, this would be one of Europe's unforgettable cities: the greatest centre of early Christianity north of the eastern Alps; founded by the Romans, destroyed by the barbarians and rebuilt by St Rupert before the end of the 7th century. (St Rupert is still commemorated with a fair in September, with all the lederhosen, beer tents and oompah bands you could want.)

Here, in the 17th century, three great princes of the church, all with Italian connections (one was a Medici, another a kinsman of a Counter-Reformation saint), employed Italian designers to lay out five noble squares. Then they built great domed baroque churches, fit to stand with those of Rome or Florence, against a backdrop of green hills, forests, castles and snowtopped peaks.

If Salzburg owed its wealth, from the Middle Ages on, to the revenues that its ecclesiastical princes exacted from the salt trade (the name of the city means "salt mountain"), it owed its character to close links with Italy. It stands at the crossroads of the ancient route from the Hungarian plain to south Germany and the road to Rome across the Carinthian Alps.

However, it is not to salt nor architecture, but to music that Salzburg owes its modern renown. It is pleasant to climb the stairs at 9 Getreidegasse, a narrow street of tall stone houses, where the "wonderful boy" Johann Chrysostom Wolfgang Theophilus was born to the wife of Leopold Mozart, *kapellmeister* to the prince archbishop. The Greek "Theophilus" was later changed to its Latin equivalent — "Amadeus".

But Mozart might have been forgotten, if in 1920 three moderns of genius had not conceived the idea of bringing the music-loving world here every summer to pay homage.

The composer Richard Strauss, the poet Hugo von Hofmannsthal, who wrote the libretto for many of Strauss's operas, including *Rosenkavalier*, and the master impresario Max Reinhardt (unfairly caricatured as the "Uncle Max" of *The Sound of Music*) were three of the five-man committee which invented the Salzburg Festival.

The festival has grown into something overwhelming, with tickets at Covent Garden prices, and hotel rooms at New York prices. Fortunately, there is music to be heard all year round (the programmes are available from the Austrian Tourist Office in London), and there are plenty of things to do outside the late-summer festival season.

You should be warned that Salzburg is only a short drive from Munich, one of the most expensive cities in Europe. Many well-heeled Muncheners have summer homes in and around Salzburg and, as a result, the designer clothes in the shops of the old city are so expensive that, even if you are used to Paris or New York, you might do a double take — a pretty silk shirt for £1,000, for example. On the other hand, the shops are distinctly tempting.

> ‘Tickets for the festival are at Covent Garden prices’

However, it costs nothing to stroll in the inner city, to Tomaselli's café, a favourite of Mozart senior, or to have a glass of wine at an open-air stall in the square behind Mozart's birthplace. There are good bookshops (this is a university town), good restaurants, and pubs selling German beer and fresh Austrian riesling.

If you have a little more energy, you can climb to the top of Hohensalzburg and look down on the baroque roofs of the city, or up to the snow-covered peaks of the Alps (there is a rack-and-pinion railway for those unwilling to climb).

Or you can walk to the two rococo castles, where most of *The Sound of Music* was made. Some scenes were shot at Mirabel, built by the great architect Fischer von Erlach for the mistress of Archbishop Dietrich von Rathenau: she bore him 12 children and was called Salome.

It stands in an elegant riverside park a few hundred yards north of the city centre. On the way you pass the house where the Mozarts lived when Wolfgang was between 17 and 24, as well as the house of the 16th-century alchemist, Paracelsus.

An even lovelier expedition goes the other way, under the shoulder of the fortress, then across a pretty meadow to Schloss Leopoldskron, a rococo palace on a lake facing the great granite massif of the Untersberg. (You can climb its 6,000ft, but it is steep, so you may want to take the cable car.)

This was where the von Trapp children spilled out of the boat as they came to give their father a surprise. The 20-minute walk round the lake, with two islands and teeming with swans, ducks and grebe, is perfection.

It is a nasty shock to learn that the snow-covered mountains to the south rise above Hitler's Berchtesgarden: you can just see the red lights on the cable car to the Eagle's Nest in the evening. A prettier thought is that legend has it that, deep under the Untersberg, a crowd of dwarfs guards an enchanted palace crammed with gold and silver.

If you don't believe in fairies, turn the other way to see the white wedding cake of the Schloss, reflected in the lake with the Salzburg fortress behind it.

It was lovingly restored in the 1920s and 1930s by Max Reinhardt before he had to flee to America. During the war the local Nazi gauleiter took it over as his headquarters, and then the American army moved in. Now it is the home of the international Salzburg Seminar.

Or you might want to explore the Salzkammergut, the "salt demesne" of the prince-archbishops, a land of 5,000ft mountains with a string of beautiful lakes filling the valleys.

First comes the Fuschlsee, with not one but two superb restaurants by the waterside, then the Mondsee, and to the north the Altersee and the Wolfgangsee.

Where it pinches in like a waist in the middle stands the ancient town of St Wolfgang, all geranium-covered chalets and tourist shops along the lakeside.

At Bad Ischl, out of all their possessions from Bohemia to the Adriatic, the Habsburg emperors chose to spend their summers.

And at Gmunden, at the foot of the Traunsee, you can hire a boat and go out on the lake through the swans crowding along the quayside, to get a different perspective on the Traunstein, twice as high as the mountains of our own Lake District.

This, like the Cumbrian lakes, is country for mountain walking and climbing, warm in summer but not too hot. The mountains are covered with forests full of deer and chamois and by high meadows (alps, for that is what the word means) painted with a Pre-Raphaelite profusion of wild flowers.

And where better to take your appetite and your thirst than Salzburg, an enchanted palace whose treasure is not gold but music?

GODFREY HODGSON

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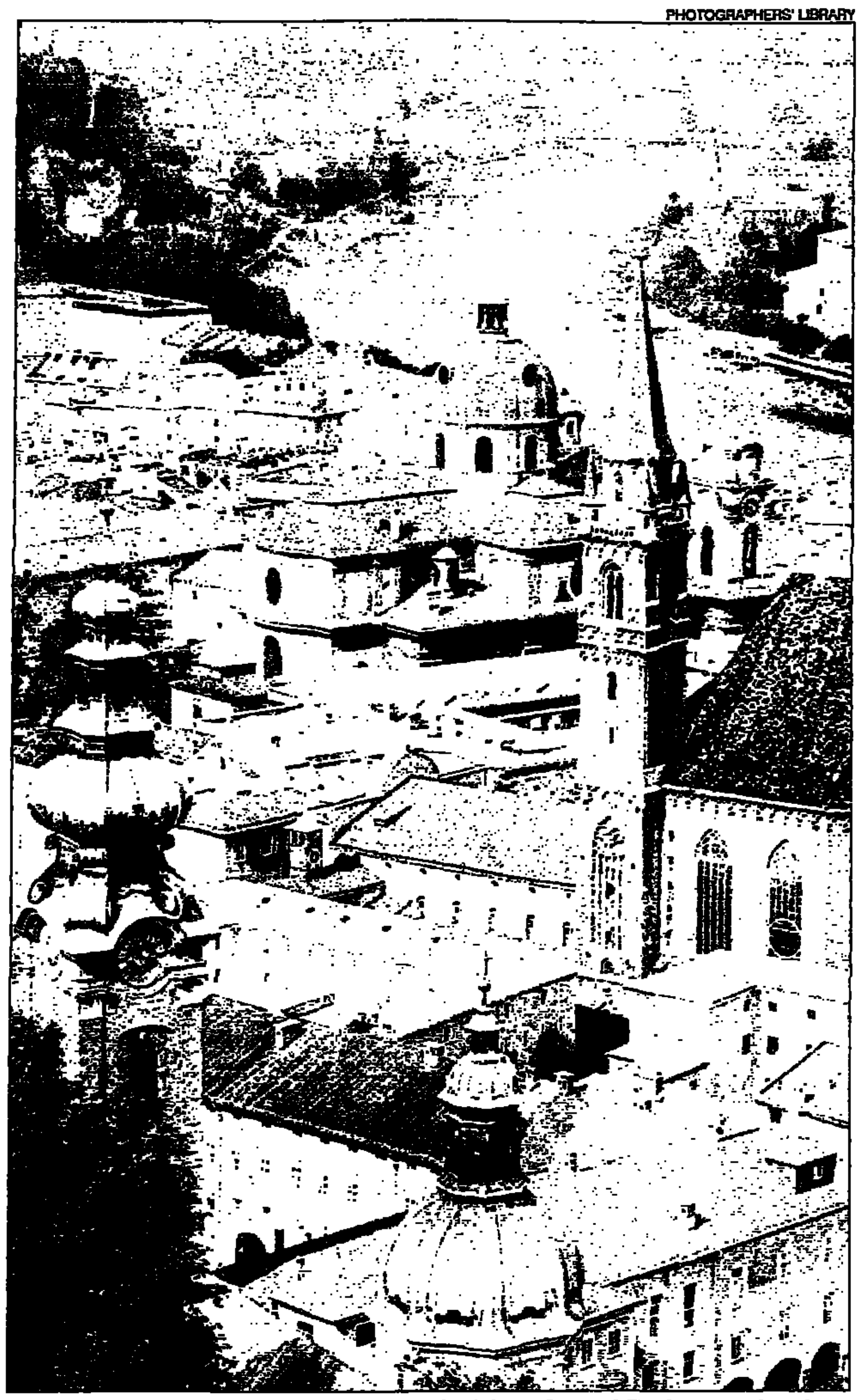

Salzburg's baroque churches stand against a backdrop of green hills, forests and castles

Salzburg fact file

☐ Lauda Air (0800 767 737) flies from Gatwick. Until December 15 Lauda Air has a special rate of £169 plus £16.50 tax. After that, it will revert to £199 and £209 at the weekend. It is also advertising a special weekend break: two nights at the Ramada for £209 on weekdays and £224 on weekends.

☐ Because of the festival, there are no fewer than 11 five-star hotels. The Bristol in the Marketplatz is one of the most attractive. The Elefant is a lovely old inn in the old city, and the Winkler one of several quiet places in the quarter you come to first on the way in from the autobahn.

Mining for a golden glow of health

"Champagne!" Herr Hannes Blumschein, mein host of the Hoteldorf Grüner Baum, bellowed cheerily across the bar. After a morning lying naked down a goldmine, sweltering in tropical heat and humidity as radon gas infused my body, a cooling glass was welcome.

"Champagne!" he called again, adding a mellifluous yodel. The sound should not have seemed incongruous in the Gasteiner valley of Austria, but Herr Blumschein was dressed in a tailored suit of technicolour tartan. As one more cork hit the ceiling I had a fleeting vision of a Highland piper in lederhosen performing a lament on an alpenhorn. "You are strong now," he declared, flexing a tartan bicep. Strong perhaps; pink as a boiled shrimp certainly.

The visit to the goldmine was one element of the renowned Gasteiner cure. The Swiss physician and philosopher Paracelsus first noted the healing power of Heilstollen mountain in the 16th century. Gold from the mine paid for Salzburg's handsome buildings, but the therapeutic cocktail of heat and humidity, with an ambient whiff of natural radon gas was rediscovered, according to Herr Blumschein, when Hermann Goering ordered the reopening of the mine to raise funds for the Nazi war effort.

Prisoners sent down to dig for gold were mysteriously healed of their aches, pains and war wounds, and emerged strong as oxen. When, after the war, scientists confirmed the beneficial effects, Heilstollen became a different kind of goldmine, a "thermal tunnel" into which 10,000 people a year pay to take their aching joints and trembling limbs in the high expectation of relief.

Surfeit of superb food and fine wines is not on the Heilstollen cure list, but it is the only ill that guests at the Grüner Baum are likely to suffer. The hotel lies a few kilometres away in an unspoilt arm of the Gasteiner valley, a group of traditional Austrian buildings which the Blumscheins have maintained among the finest hotels in the region, a haven over the years for emperors, sheiks and celebrities.

It has earned the Welcome Trophy from Relais & Châteaux, a cook's hat for its excellent cuisine from Gault Millau, a high mention by the German Guide Verlag, and been nominated among the 50 most famous hotels in the world. The ebullient Herr Blumschein has held the "Hotel Owner of the Year" award conferred by Gault Millau. He and his wife Monica are strong Anglophiles and wish to welcome more British guests to the peaceful valley which they own.

"All the seasons of the year shine intensely here. There is rarely any grey transition. Spring is brilliant with Alpine flowers; summer is hot and there are miles of mountain paths to explore. In autumn the valley becomes red-gold as the leaves turn, and in winter the snow is thick, the skiing excellent and we have sleighs drawn by horses to ride down the valley," Herr Blumschein says.

The Grüner Baum is ten minutes' drive from the famous 19th-century Austrian spa of Badgastein and, although the hotel is not devoted exclusively to the cure, its beauty centre offers a comprehensive menu for self-improvement. There is body-wrapping, lymph drainage, underwater massage, purifying baths and muscle-functioning checks. Biolifting is an option for the face or bust, laser treatment to raise an eyebrow permanently or to erase stretch marks.

But, unlike any health farm I have ever heard of, clients can then hit the gourmet-quality restaurant with a vengeance. The Grüner Baum specialises in traditional Austrian dishes; *klopse* (dumplings) the size of cannonballs, wurst of majestic length, Wiener schnitzel of superb tenderness and a host of speciality dishes and creamy deserts that issue from Johann Kunz's kitchen to be complemented by Herr Blumschein's excellent cellar.

By the end of the evening, any good the earlier Japanese vitality treatment, herbal sweat pack or mud bath achieved could have been seriously undermined.

For more conventional pleasure the hotel has an indoor thermal swimming pool, sauna and gymnasium and regular transport to the ski areas above Badgastein. The Stubnerkogelbahn lift gives access to 40km of downhill ski runs. More skiing at Sportgastein and Kötschachtal are within easy reach with numerous cross-country trails, one starting in the hotel grounds. The Grüner Baum has its own ski-hire centre, and Badgastein a choice of three ski schools.

Quality and comfort are what the Blumscheins and their staff strive to provide. In springtime a 1934 Rolls-Royce emerges from its winter wrappings as hotel transport, and guests set out on picnics in a handsomely restored 1925 fire engine. Herr Blumschein slapped the vehicle proudly on its bonnet. "We have converted the machine for the enjoyment of guests," he declared. Which meant that any blaze the veteran appliance was called to would be extinguished only by a costly shower of champagne.

RONALD FAUX

Hoteldorf Grüner Baum

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of the Grüner Baum. Half board at the hotel costs from £550 per week. Special offers are available throughout 1996.

☐ Lauda Air flies from Gatwick to Salzburg from £199 plus tax.

☐ Full details (in English) from: Hoteldorf *Grüner Baum, A-5640* Badgastein, Austria (00 43 6434 25160; fax 00 43 6434 251625)

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During our week-long stay we shall visit a variety of great houses and gardens including Quinta Palheiro which will be for many the centrepiece of an exotic week. One wanders in enchantment discovering trees from all parts of the world; sequoias, magnolias, cedars, ginkos and tulip trees. In dense shrubberies, roses and clematis of all kinds grow through numerous rustic arches, the fragrance is enhanced by leucospermums, leptospermums, gardenias, freesias . . . the list is seemingly endless.

We shall also visit Quinta da Bom Successo, the island's botanic garden. The panorama is immediately striking, the viewing points of the winding paths stretch out into thin air revealing vistas of Funchal far below.

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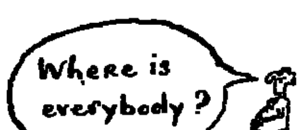
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CANADA: In search of authentic Toronto; scenic Charlevoix and its caribou

Will the real city please stand up

Time travel is a wonderful thing. You get on a plane for a flight halfway across the world and can have dinner in a city several thousand miles from where you had breakfast. But the reality is that you can end up feeling unpleasantly jet-lagged. So is Toronto worth losing a good night's sleep for?

On the plus side, it is a clean and relatively safe city. Its waterfront skyline is as instantly recognisable as New York's — although less impressive. It is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world, offering a huge range of cuisine. It has theatres to rival New York's Broadway, an internationally renowned gallery of modern art, lots of green space and a state-of-the-art metro system.

And yet these assets — admirable enough in themselves — are somehow not enough to make this one of the world's great cities. There is something almost too neat about the place, something a bit dull. Despite the giganticism of many of its newer buildings, Toronto still has a provincial air, a hangover from the days when it was a colonial outpost called York.

You can catch a glimpse of these modest beginnings in its Front Street district, whose early 19th-centry buildings have been restored with such thoroughness that they seem more like a replica of the past than a remnant of the real thing.

> ‘Yonge Street at midnight was eerily quiet’

Downtown Toronto, where my hotel was located (on Gerrard, off Yonge Street), seemed more authentically north American with its high-rise, plate-glass buildings and expensive department stores, which were interspersed with sleazier emporia selling everything from sex aids to cut-price computer software.

But I walked up Yonge Street one night about midnight and found it eerily quiet. If metropolitan life was going on, it was going on in another part of the city.

Greektown, off Danforth Avenue, was altogether more fun. Its attractive 19th-century streets are a welcome antidote to the claustrophobia induced by the skyscrapers and shopping malls downtown. Ouzeri, a restaurant at 500A Danforth, had good food at reasonable prices. Be warned, though: the portions, in keeping with Canadian custom, are large — I had to leave half.

Marche (at BCE Place, between Yonge and Bay Street), where I breakfasted, was equally generous with its servings of French toast, pancakes, blueberry muffins and omelettes. Again it was an effort to finish it all.

Fortified as if for a trek into the Canadian wilderness, rather than a gentle stroll downtown, I set off for Queen Street, allegedly one of the livelier areas. It turned out to be a somewhat tamer, if cleaner, version of Camden Market in London, full of secondhand bookshops, "Gothic" clothes shops and cheap restaurants. It was pleasant enough, but it had nothing you could not find in any decent university town.

Next stop was the much-vaunted Harbourfront area. This is dominated by the spacerocket silhouette of the CN Tower — at 1,815ft the tallest freestanding structure in the world — which was built in the 1970s to provide the city with a symbol to rival the Statue of Liberty or the Eiffel Tower. Its futuristic shape now seems dated, as does that of the Skydome Stadium beside it, which resembles a stranded flying saucer. Both buildings look more impressive at night, especially seen from the water.

I strolled around the covered antique market on Queen's Quay West, where (at a price) you can pick up a better class of souvenir than the maple-leaf sweatshirt that most tourists settle for. The Harbourfront, on the edge of Lake Ontario, has been developed into a recreational area, with parks, a theatre and skating rink, art gallery and artists' workshops, where the work produced — jewellery, ceramics, textiles and glass — is for sale.

The Queen's Quay Terminal building also contains an upmarket shopping centre. Shopping is a major activity in Toronto; indeed, many of its American visitors, attracted by the favourable exchange rate between the US and Canadian dollar, come here for the shops alone. British visitors ought to bear in mind that tax is added to the stated price, but that this can be claimed back at the end of a visit if the purchases amount to more than $100 (roughly £50).

From Queen's Quay, I caught the ferry to Toronto Island Park, a beautiful stretch of wooded parkland in Toronto harbour. It was exhilarating being in the middle of a lake on the edge of a big city and, for the first time, I started to see what living in Toronto might be all about. The park is made up of several small islands, and includes a children's area, with a small zoo and amusement park; a marina and several yacht clubs, and numerous picnic sites.

Then it was time to return to the mainland and another delicious but enormous meal at the Duncan Street Grill off Queen Street West which, despite its name, serves mainly French food. Other types of cuisine available in this culturally diverse city include Chinese, Italian, Korean, West Indian and Vietnamese. No wonder Canadians are so big.

After two days in Toronto, I still wasn't sure what it was I had crossed the Atlantic to see. The next day I found out — and it was worth waiting for. It is difficult to describe Niagara Falls without resorting to hyperbole. It is magnificent. Seen from below (from the deck of the *Maid of the Mist*), it seems a sheer wall of water, crashing down 150ft into the boiling miasma. From above, the sight is even more impressive — a river, tumbling suddenly into the void.

There is nothing awe-inspiring about the town which has grown up around the Falls (not to be confused with the charming early 19th-century village of Niagara-on-the-Lake). Dracula's House of Horrors can be found next to Houdini's World of Wonders in Niagara's main street, along with fast-food restaurants, souvenir shops and amusement arcades.

It is all in the worst possible taste. But after the icy splendour of the Falls, what could be more reassuringly banal than a Jumbo Frankfurter or a heart-shaped Jacuzzi in the Honeymoon Hotel?

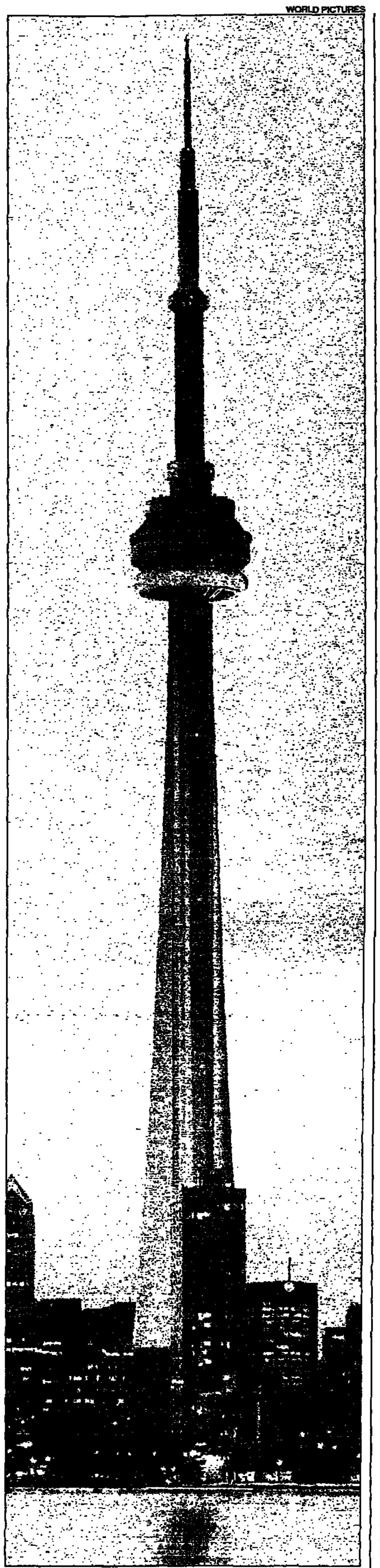
CHRISTINA KONING

Getting there

☐ Christina Koning was a guest of Sovereign Holidays (0161-742 2244) and Canada 3000 (01293 571700).

☐ Sovereign's City Breaks start at £329 for three nights and include flights, accommodation, and transfers. Day trips to Niagara Falls cost £45, including lunch, boat ride and excursion to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

WORLD PICTURES



CN Tower: intended as a rival to the Statue of Liberty

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Switzerland by the sea

You discover Petite Switzerland thousands of miles from the Matterhorn, around the lower reaches of the St Lawrence, Canada's mightiest river.

Less than an hour's drive from Quebec city, Highway 138 gives way to the Charlevoix region, whose steady inclines and fields of flowers have earned it its European nickname.

Catholicism, a strong influence on the province's history, has also stamped its mark on the mountainous landscape. Tiny settlements can be seen far away as sunlight bounces off steeples and tin church roofs.

In villages such as Port au Persil, and in the coves which stretch for over 200km along the St Lawrence up to the Saguenay River, schooners are moored off wooden jetties. They echo the ship-building industry which once underpinned the region's economy.

Our first port of call was Baie St Paul, a beachside town founded in 1678 at the point where the Rivière du Gouffre meets the salty St Lawrence. Here Martin Bouchard, a naturalist, runs canoe tours of the riverside as well as cycle and hiking tours into the surrounding country, including Parc des Grands Jardins, where caribou roam at their southernmost locale.

During the late 19th century, the town also became the centre of a French Canadian artistic movement, who were transfixed by the light, colours, and peasant scenes.

Baie St Paul, a web of winding streets and mansard roofed houses, many more than 200 years old, has more than a dozen private and public galleries.

The region, an area of 3,750 square miles designated a Unesco World Biosphere Reserve in 1988, is one of North America's most earthquake prone.

The explanation is held in a black and white aerial photograph pinned to M Bouchard's wall. It outlines the ancient crash site of a giant meteorite. "It landed there about 350 million years ago," the Canadian naturalist says, ringing a mottled piece of land with the Laurentian hills to the west, and the St Lawrence river to the east.

M Bouchard, who runs the Centre d'Histoire Naturelle de Charlevoix, says the earth still moans as if in remembrance of this primordial maelstrom. Mercifully, few earthquakes register higher than a bumble bee's hum on the Richter scale.

Accommodation in the Charlevoix region varies from motels and hotels to B&B type lodging, but if the budget is flush, a stay at one of Quebec's inns or auberges is not to be missed. Typical of these family-run inns, which pride themselves on an informal atmosphere, a fine wine cellar and gourmet menus, is *L'Auberge des Sablons* at Saint Irénée, a small village on Highway 362, which branches off the 138 at Baie St Paul.

It is owned by Guy Alain, a moustached former assistant transport minister in the Quebec provincial government, who enjoys roaming his garden in the morning in a striped dressing-gown, cigarette in hand. The 14-room inn overlooks the St Lawrence and is bathed in the morning mists which in the summer roll in from the seaway.

From St Irénée, the 362 continues its journey up to La Malbaie. The area, known to the British as Murray Bay, gets its French name from the poor moorings which frustated the attempts of early colonists to set up a thriving farming and fur trade on its shores.

It took the march of marine engineering in the guise of paddle steamers to open up the area as a pleasure ground for rich Canadians and Americans fleeing the pollution and pressure of city life. During the early half of the century it became a holiday, horticultural and golf resort for the likes of William Taft, the 27th president of the USA, and Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford, who came to stay at the Manoir Richleux, a giant Gothic hotel that has been renovated with a casino.

The Manoir serves as an excellent base to explore the region up to and around the Sanguenay River, with whale watching off Baie Ste Catherine. The St Lawrence is around 30 miles wide at this point, and has a permanent population of belugas and minke whales, which regularily visit to feed on krill and marine life.

NICK NUTTALL

Fact file

☐ Nick Nuttall was a guest of *the Ministère du Tourisme* of the Quebec government.

☐ British Airways (0181-759 5511) and Air Canada (0181-897 1331) have return flights to Quebec from £412.

☐ Car hire for the Charlevoix region in Quebec city starts at around C$169 (£76) for seven days.

☐ Accommodation in the region ranges from C$65 a night for two people B&B to C$250 for a top hotel. Prices at Les Sablons Inn are between C$65 and C$140 a night. The Manoir Richleux costs C$79 to C$159 a night.

☐ The Charlevoix tourist office is at 630 blvd de Comporte, La Malbaie (0101-418-665-

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WALKING: The adventurous way to explore the wilds of Dartmoor and the gentle way to enjoy the Cotswolds

Rambles for stamp collectors

Thanks to Arthur Conan Doyle's creepy tale *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and the grim presence of a high-security prison, Dartmoor has earned a forbidding reputation which has overwhelmed its more deserving attractions, such as splendid scenery, good pubs, a lot of historic and geographic interest and, of course, the antics of Uncle Tom Cobbleigh and all at Widecombe Fair.

Dartmoor does not sound like a jolly place and, when the weather turns foul, which it can do with startling rapidity. It can become extremely bleak, with plummeting temperatures, high winds and driving rain. When you venture out on Dartmoor you have to be ready for anything.

But let's begin with a few basic facts. Dartmoor occupies a large part of central Devon; a 365-square-mile triangle of moorland, stream and tor, abundantly populated by sheep and ponies but gloriously empty of people. The moor is best imagined as an upturned saucer, the land rising to more than 2,000ft in places; a great sponge of wild country drained by rivers flowing south to the sea.

Given decent weather, Dartmoor can be delightful. There are pleasant market towns to explore, such as Bovey Tracey, Okehampton, Moretonhampstead and Tavistock, stately homes and gardens, lots of activities and plenty of fine hotels, among them Lewtrenchard Manor near Lydford, the well-chosen base for my recent visit. Dartmoor, with a warm, comfortable place to return to, and the rest left to chance, can hardly be bettered as the place for a weekend break.

The moor can be explored by bus, car or cycle, by foot or on horseback. But if you want to see as much as possible, try that Dartmoor speciality, letterboxing.

Letterboxing is best imagined as a treasure hunt across the moor. The activity began in 1854 when a Dartmoor guide placed a letter box near the Cranmere Pool, where messages could be left or collected by the moorland people. The idea caught on, and letter boxes gradually spread across the moor until, in the 1970s, the growing interest in outdoor interests caused a huge surge in letter-box participants. Letter boxes were put out by Scout groups and ramblers, by people celebrating birthdays and by those who simply wanted a bit of fun and a reason for a weekend walk.

ANNE SWINSCOW

Godfrey Swinscow, of the Letterbox Club, third left, with walkers on Dartmoor

Today there are at least 1,000 letter boxes on the moor, each one a focus for a growing number of roving box-hunters. There is a Letterbox Catalogue and a Letterbox Club but, according to Godfrey Swinscow, who organises much of this activity, letterboxing is, above all, the perfect way to get out and explore the remoter, wilder parts of the moor.

"Of course, you don't have to do it the hard way," Mr Swinscow says. "There are letter boxes everywhere, some in country lanes, some in pubs, shops or police stations. Some can be found just a few yards from the road. The remoter ones call for a full day's expedition across the moor and skill with map and compass.

"Letterboxing is the perfect outdoor activity and attracts people from all over Britain, and even abroad. It is a good sport and a great leveller. We have people who are managing directors or just out of prison (or both), family parties, teenagers and retired people. It is a pastime that can become an obsession."

> ‘ Letterboxing is like a treasure hunt ’

The letterboxing routine is simple. You first acquire the Letterbox Catalogue, a list of locations published twice a year by Mr Swinscow. This lists the range of boxes and gives clues to their whereabouts. Thus equipped, and wearing sensible clothes and footwear, you set out across the moor, locate the boxes — which are normally small plastic ones of the Tupperware variety — write your name in the book inside, and mark your own notebook with the rubber stamp provided.

Letterboxing adds a new element to a long day's ramble; the urge to collect stamps. During my two days on the moor, I managed to collect only 12, because I took my time and went for the far-flung locations. But other people were trotting past me all the time, anxious to collect that many stamps or more in one day. When you have collected 100 stamps, you can join the 100 Club, which already has 11,000 members. If you become addicted to the pastime, you can proceed to the giddy heights of 500 or 1,000 boxes, or even — taking into account their changing locations — 5,000 boxes , a target that has been achieved by more than 100 people.

There is no end in sight for the letterboxing buffs, because the boxes are in a constant state of flux, being moved, replaced, hidden in places difficult to find, or equipped with new rubber stamps and more cryptic clues about locations.

Those people who still find the moor alarming can go on one of the guided short walks or full-day expeditions organised by the National Trust and the Dartmoor National Park rangers. This way you will discover that Dartmoor is not to be feared.

One warning: earlier this year, three children were injured when an old mortar on an army firing range, which one of them picked up, exploded. Metal objects should be treated warily.

Neverthless, come next year, I shall be back, with map and compass and an amiable dog, roaming across one of the last wild places left in the South of England. And having a wonderful time.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

Moor guide

☐ Further details about the Dartmoor National Park can be obtained from the Princetown High Moorland Visitors Centre, Princetown, Devon PL20 6QF (01822 890414).

☐ For information on accommodation, activities and places of interest on the moor, contact the West Country Tourist Board, 60, St David's Hill, Exeter, Devon EX4 4SY (01392 76351).

☐ The author was a guest of Lewtrenchard Manor Hotel, Lewdown near Okehampton (01566 783256).

☐ For information on letterboxing and the Letterbox Catalogue, write to Godfrey Swinscow, Cross Farm, Diptford, Totnes, Devon TQ9 7NU (0154 8821325). The catalogue costs £6.20, including postage and packing.

PICTURES

Quiet flows the Windrush, past the beautiful Oxfordshire village of Burford

Haunt of royal lovers

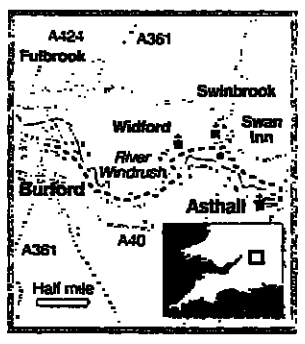
THE WINDRUSH valley is one of the Cotswolds' best-kept secrets. This country walk from Burford in Oxfordshire, along the willow-lined upper reaches of the River Windrush, is far from the Cotswolds of the coach tours, and includes two of the most attractive pubs in the area.

It takes you past a 12th-century wayside chapel built on the site of a Roman villa, through the enchanting village where the Mitford girls grew up, and explores another archetypal Cotswold village of golden stone with a fine manor house, a green where they dance round the maypole and an avenue of noble beech trees. No great hills or difficulties, just a perfect walk after a good lunch in Burford.

Charles II used to bring Nell Gwyn racing at Burford. They stayed at the George Hotel and liked it so much that they gave their first-born the title, Earl of Burford. The racecourse on the downs disappeared with the Enclosures Act, but Burford, with a plethora of antique shops and old coaching inns boasting roaring log fires and four-poster beds, is still a favourite place for a long weekend.

Burford inns were famous for their venison, poached from nearby Wychwood Forest, and game is still a speciality. After a splendid lunch at the Lamb or the Bay Tree, in Sheep Street, you can cross the High Street to begin your walk towards the villages of Swinbrook and Asthall. After about half a mile, follow a signpost marked Widford over a stile to water meadows beside the Windrush.

There are some signs that otters are returning. The pretty willow-lined river path will lead you back to the road after a while. Turn left on to it, then left at Widford Mill Farm. Cross the river and take the path over the cattle grid across fields to your right. A 13th-century chapel marooned in the fields at Widford is all that is left of a medieval village; perhaps plague drove away its inhabitants. It stands on the site of a Roman villa.



Follow the well-marked path across fields to Swinbrook, pausing for a moment in the tranquil churchyard by the graves of Nancy, Pamela and Unity Mitford, whose unconventional childhood in the village is chronicled in *The Pursuit of Love* and *Hons and Rebels*. Inside the church is an extraordinary pair of triple-decker tombs of various male members of the Fettiplace family, who are portrayed reclining elegantly on their elbows. One, dated 1686, is by the sculptor William Bird.

Turn right outside the church to walk through the village down to the Swan Inn, before crossing to follow signs over the fields to Asthall.

Turn right when you reach the road. The heart of this lovely village lies around its green. I hesitate to recommend another pub — there must be some convention as to the number of refreshment stops on a walk — but the Maytime Inn at Asthall, is another well-loved destination. From there, you could retrace your steps and walk back by the river, or to Burford on the leafy road past Asthall's fine Jacobean manor house. Pass straight over at the crossroads near Swinbrook, and on at the junction that leads up to the A40. The views along the valley will make you wish you'd brought watercolours.

Glimpses of the noble spire of Burford church across the meandering Windrush will guide you back to where you started, to the antique shops or to a four-poster bed.

JULIA OWEN

- *The Secret Cotswolds by Julia Owen is published by S.B. Publications, 19 Grove Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 1TP,* price £5.99.
- *The Lamb Inn, Burford (01993 823155): double room B&B £47.50 a person at weekends: three-course dinner £23. Bay Tree Hotel, Sheep Street, Burford (01993 822791). Weekend rate for two nights £125 for double room, half-board.*

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Our series of 80 holidays around the world began in Europe, continued to South America with exciting tours of Belize, Chile, Argentina, Peru and Brazil; then to Pakistan, the jungles of India, Sri Lanka and Nepal. There were luxurious holidays to seven paradise resorts in the Caribbean and individually tailored safaris to Kenya, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa. Last week there were splendid cruises to Russia, Greece, the Aegean, Germany and Egypt.

Today we begin a week of far-flung adventures, courtesy of Simply Tropix, with a prize of a five-day holiday for two in Hong Kong, the city they say never sleeps. This will be followed by the chance to win trips to Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

Simply Tropix is a relatively new company, formed in 1992, which specialises in a broad range of holidays and tours to the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and the Far East. It also offers cruises in Indonesia around the Spice Islands and overland tours from Java to Bali.

The company uses scheduled flights rather than charters, and transfers are by private car. They will also arrange an itinerary to suit your own individual requirements.

The Kowloon Shangri-La Hotel has spectacular views over the harbour

TEN PER CENT DISCOUNTS
Readers can take advantage of an exclusive ten per cent discount on today's trip to Hong Kong with Simply Tropix and all their holidays featured this week.

The 10 per cent discount applies to all the holidays featured during our 80-day holiday competition. Many of them include five-star accommodation, superb meals, excursions led by qualified guides, safaris and sightseeing.

To get brochures for holidays featured in previous weeks, please write to:
The Times Brochure Service, PO Box 9, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8QQ.

Bookings should be made through Cox & Kings before February 28, 1996. All other terms and conditions relating to these holiday competitions and offers are contained in the brochures.

HOW TO WIN £20,000
Collect 30 of the 80 tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* until December 28, for the chance to win £20,000 cash to spend on an 80-day holiday of a lifetime. The winner will be given help to work out a holiday itinerary.

Attach your 30 differently numbered tokens to the completed entry form below and you will be entered into our prize draw. Readers may collect 60 tokens for two chances of winning.

Previously published tokens may be obtained free of charge by sending a sae to:
The Times/Sunday Times Holiday of a Lifetime Competition, Token Request, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN.

A maximum of four tokens can be supplied per application.

HOLIDAY PRIZE WINNERS:
Safari to Zimbabwe: Dr J Lloyd of Exeter; maiden voyage cruise on *Minerva:* Mr J Christy of Powys; Rhine-Mosel cruise: Mr P Johnson of Hastings, East Sussex; 12-day cruise to the Adriatic: Mrs Weatherill of Ascot, Berkshire; cruise to the Holy Lands: Mrs Horne, Sevenoaks, Kent.

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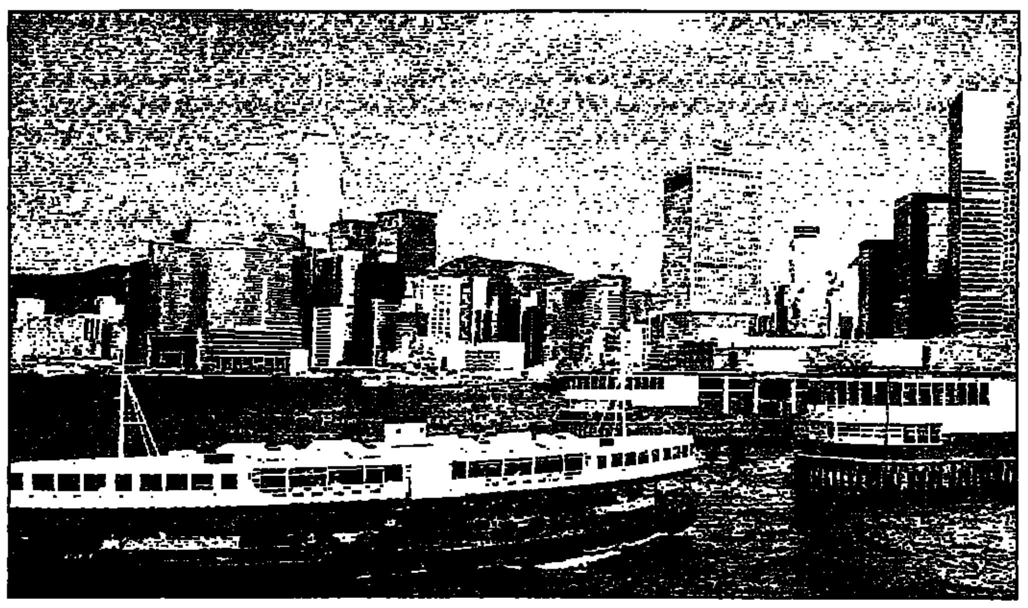
Five days for two in Hong Kong to be won



The Star Ferry plies the South China Sea, linking Hong Kong Island and Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

Today's prize to Hong Kong begins from the moment you are welcomed on board your Cathay Pacific 747 at Heathrow or Manchester. The airline, which has 16 flights a week between the UK and Hong Kong, is well-known for its fine cuisine and award-winning service by cabin attendants drawn from 11 Asian countries. For shoppers Hong Kong is an ideal destination, not least because the boutiques and stores are concentrated in a small area. With 6,000 restaurants it is also good for gourmets.

ITINERARY
Day 1 Fly from Heathrow or Manchester to Hong Kong. **Day 2** Transfer to the Kowloon Shangri-La hotel, located in the main shopping area, close to the subway and Star Ferry. Day to relax. **Day 3** A cruise around Victoria Harbour to view some of Hong Kong's famous landmarks. **Day 4** Take a heritage tour and see something of Hong Kong's rich history. Visit an 18th century walled village, with its ancient temple and marketplace. You will also be able to see ornate, traditional Chinese homes. **Days 5-6** Free for shopping and sightseeing. **Day 7** Return London.

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January 1 to March 14 or May 16 to Sept 30, Dec 1 to Dec 31, 1996. All departure dates are subject to availability.

Price, with our 10 per cent discount, is £945 per person for five nights, down from £1,050.

It includes economy flights, twinshare deluxe room, on a room only basis, transfers and sightseeing as detailed in the itinerary.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win today's prize of a trip to Hong Kong, phone your answers to the two questions below on our competition hotline: **0891 40 50 34** before midnight tonight. Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.
The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

THE QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the ferry that operates services linking Hong Kong Island and Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon?

2. How many flights per week do Cathay Pacific operate between the UK and Hong Kong?

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I enclose 30 tokens from *The Times/Sunday Times* and wish to enter the prize draw. Send to: Around The World Prize Draw, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SR. Closing date Friday January 12, 1996

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It would help us if you answered these four questions:

1. Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

1) 15-24 ☐ 2) 25-34 ☐ 3) 35-44 ☐

4) 45-54 ☐ 5) 55-64 ☐ 6) 65+ ☐

2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

....

3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?

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4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

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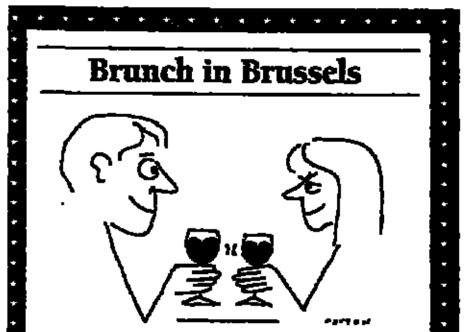

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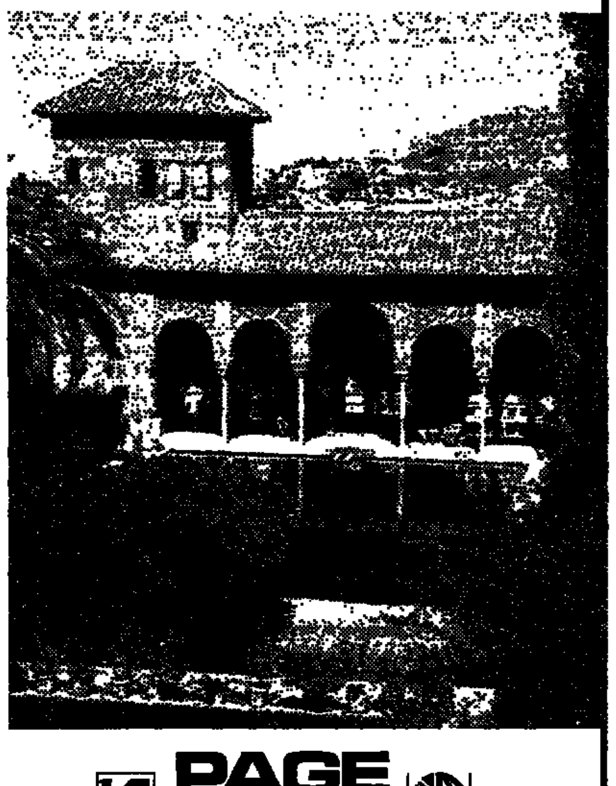
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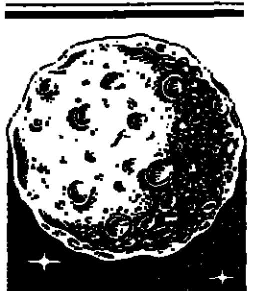

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LADIES

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GENTLEMEN 38-50 are you like me, single? I am a woman looking to enjoy a more interesting social life. If you live in the West Midlands, why not write. Please Reply to Box No 1582.

GENTLE well educated lady in Devon seeking a warm, caring companion. The inside man is of more importance to me than looks. Age 49+. Box No 1962.

GENUINELY good looking, successful gentleman, dark haired, aged 43, GSOH, with a strong personality, would wish to meet a very feminine and non feminist good looking lady with an excellent figure who wishes to be wined and dined and be generally spoilt in a fun one to one relationship. Photo and telephone number ensures reply. Please Reply to Box No 1882.

GENUINE, classy, v. attractive blonde, 38, with all the right attributes, seeks charismatic professional to complete the story. All letters answered. Please Reply to Box No 1701.

GOOD dancer (Viennese waltz) to partner lady at ball in Vienna on 12 Jan 96 and maybe longer friendship. You are 40-60 over 5'7, comfortable in evening dress, dining, fine wine, theatre or casual, walking, reading, country pubs. Kind, romantic, solvent. I am slim, attractive, 41, long brown hair, warm and caring. London/south. Recent photo guarantees reply. Please Reply to Box No 1811.

HAMPSTEAD prof 40, pretty, witty, occasionally Jewish, seeks Mr Wonderful. Box 1827

HEREFORD slim, attractive, 5'8, prof lady (youthful 50) adores good food, wine, dancing, music, travel, theatre and walking. Seeks similar energetic, gentle, caring man to put the fun back into life and share trip to Mayan Mexico. Box 1624

IF there was an attractive, witty, bright, warm, tolerant woman (30s/SE) with 2 adorable children, would there be an appreciative man, courageous enough to contact her? Let's find out. Box No 1806.

INTAPOLE We have over 1000 beautiful, friendly & romantic Polish ladies waiting to meet you. 01189 877322. WAIA.

INTELLIGENT sensitive, professional lady, 28, attractive, blonde, blue eyes, loves music, countryside, animals. Seeks professional cultured, caring man for fun, loving relationship. Cambs/London. Photo please. Please Reply Box 1813.

IS THERE a professional gent well travelled, cultured, 60's, interesting who WLTM an elegant, slim, vibrant lady, educated, travelled, musical. Many interests. Based Hants. Ltr/Photo please. Box No 1706

JAM tart seeks miracle dream topping between 38 and 50, 5'10 +, SOH, worlds best lover, lots of fun. Photo preferred but not essential. Box No 1804.

JOIN Exclusive Company this Christmas. Extensive social events calendar. Tel Exclusive Co. 01564 776200.

LADY sixties, wishes to meet gentleman, 70 plus, who respects integrity, honesty and good manners. Reply to Box 1610

LIVELY attractive prof lady, eclectic interests, WLTM tall, athletic, genuine prof man 34-44, for caring, sharing and to bring sparkle back into life. (Midlands Based) Photo and phone no to Box No 1623

MEN Why call long distance? Close Encounters Sussex, Kent, Surrey, London, has an abundance of eligible women. Call free 0500 141 121.

MEN it's simple - one Free call equals 980 very eligible women, plus an active social life at Close Encounters Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Swindon, Salisbury. Call 0800 141 141 Now.

ME: very attractive, 42 (looks 32), intelligent, truly warm personality, slim, blonde, 5'6, sporty, (tennis, skiing) terrific companion, well travelled, loves cooking, dining out. London based. No ties. Unexpectedly home alone. You: warm, sincere 40-55, 5'8"+, GSOH, relaxed, comfortable lifestyle, generous, successful and have no problems making a commitment. Please Reply to Box No 1689.

MY 37yr old step-daughter, a 5'6 Derbyshire beauty, slim, intelligent, mother of teenage son, professional with a wicked SOH is worthy of someone in the top 10% of everything (and she is going to kill me for this) Reply with photo to box number 1964

PETITE attractive, late 50s professional lady who enjoys life seeks intelligent caring man with GSOH for laughter, romance, and to share the long winter evenings. Surrey, Hants, Berks. Photo appreciated but not essential. Box No 1787.

POLITICALLY incorrect, self assured, gorgeous woman (early 40s) with a rich chequered past would like to meet a man who is 40 (but not 50) 5'10" more or less! Creative (but not arty). Experienced in relationships, financially secure, broad minded and most of all good fun. Central Scotland. Please Reply to Box 1948

RECENTLY returned from living in USA, stylish, prof lady, early 50s, widowed. Slim, attractive, warm and funny seeks gentleman of integrity with sense of humour for sharing quality time. Please reply to Box 1932

SCORPIO lady with no sting attached. Very attractive, slim, blonde, petite, young looking 48, elegant, warm with GSOH and interesting personality with many varied interests, enjoys good food, theatre, travel abroad, countryside, tennis, cosy fireside evenings. London based. WLTM 50+ attractive, solvent, intelligent, affectionate, sincere gentleman with GSOH to spoil each other and to enjoy a loving, caring, permanent relationship. Please write with telephone number and recent photo must (to be returned). Please Reply to Box No 1864.

SCOTTISH Widow aged 49 marooned in Bedfordshire looking for a Scotsman with the same love of Scotland to correspond and be my friend. Box 1771

SLIM, attractive, well spoken, right wing, 54 y.o., ex-pat, widow, seeks similar chap who understands. Box No 1911

SLIM smart, energetic, Wiltshire lady, young 50, well educated, independent means seeks similar gentleman, n/s, good stature to share town and country interests. Box No. 1837.

SLIM stylish, sporty, sensual, successful 40s female seeks similar male. S Mids/anywhere. Please Reply to Box No 1808.

SLIM, very attractive lady, happy, sensitive, intelligent seeks good looking, positive n/s man 45-55. Mid/South Sussex. Please Reply to Box No 1688

SOUTH WEST Wales. Welsh speaking lady 51, n/s, working, needing someone very special in her life. Seeks interesting man for culture and cuddles. Please Reply to Box No 1669

SOUTH American lady, pretty, slim, elegant, late 30's, educated WLTM unencumbered gentleman to spend christmas with. Photo apprec. Box 1868

SPEEDING up to 40. Want to slow down a little to take in the theatre, dining, walking, travel. Still craving romance. Attractive, not stunning. Realistic, sincere, straight forward yet humorous and adventurous. Professional. European. My description, is this yours. Please write with photo. All replies answered. All photos returned. No train spotters or circulars. Please Reply to Box No 1960.

STOCKING filler wanted for Christmas. Attractive, professional lady, separated, 47, outgoing and stylish is looking to fill those lonely dark nights with Gentleman, 47-54, tall, outgoing, fun to be with & humorous. My interests are Antique toys, crafts, music & theatre. London/SE Area. Photo ensures reply. Box 1684.

STUNNING, stylish blonde Fashion Designer, West Mids., early 40s, loves travel, horse riding and her special puppies. Wants extrovert, energetic, spontaneous partner for future fun strong to handle, but lifetime rewards photo & letter Bx 1928

STYLISH blonde lady 5'7, attractive, creative, warm and sincere, GSOH, enjoys travel, good food, the arts and socialising. WLTM tall, successful, honourable male 47-57 to sparkle with. London/South. Reply with recent photo to Box No 1903.

TALL erudite, well spoken gent, 48-54 sought by slim, energetic professional lady, mid 40s who is well travelled with myriad interests for social encounters. Hereford based. Photo appreciated. Please Reply Box 1680.

TALL leggy sensuous attractive 34 yo brunette based in Hampshire, runs successful own business hence private life on 'back burner' wishes to share quality times with a n/s fun-loving genuine 34-50 yo gentleman with WSOH. I need to be swept off my feet, can you take up the challenge and fancy an adventure. Photo ensures reply. Please Reply to Box No 1884.

THEY say life begins at 40 I've just got there and I'd love a solvent prof man to show me this is true. I'm an n/s, GSOH 5'4" attractive, prof girl who works long hours but will travel. I love the theatre, Rock music dining out and keep fit. Photo appreciated. Cheshire. Box No 1692.

VERY tall Gemini, 5'9, feminine female, 60s, gregarious with a mirried of interests, travel, sea and countryside, swimming, dancing, wining and dining, learning golf, music and the arts, used to the good life, needs an attractive, intelligent, tall, caring guy to complete her lifestyle. Please Reply Box 1663.

VIBRANT sexy 45 year old woman would like to meet special man, someone who is successful with style, wit and a GSOH. Jewish or non Jewish, 40-56. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 1584.

VIVACIOUS, professional, attractive lady, 37, blonde, slim, recently moved to a mid-Wales location, seeks cheerful, adventurous, well travelled male for friendship and weekend walks. Reply Box 1889

WANTED for Christmas. Tall, attractive, intelligent man aged 35-45 for 38yr old tall, slim, intelligent and very attractive lady. Many interests and GSOH. Photo apprec. Please Reply to Box No 1871

WANTED a very wealthy man to spoil and be a friend to an attractive, blonde haired, slim, 45 year old woman. Please Reply to Box No 1641.

WANTED! Real man into Fast: Music, Cars, Football, Fun: By successful woman, 31, North West. Pls Reply Box No 1681.

WARWICKSHIRE Very pretty brown-eyed lady - slim, creative, caring, seeks attractive, educated, genuine, n/s man, 40ish, to share love and romance. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 1809.

WONDERFUL job, no life. Is there a dashing white knight, healthy, wealthy & wise to rescue this 40 something Damsel. Photo appreciated. Please reply to box No 1709

WHERE have all the unattached police/prof men gone - 40-48 - honest sincere solvent GSOH n/s! blue blonde, 5'6", slim, 41, for laughter - affection - c/walks - ski - music - good food/wine, friendship poss romance. Junc. 9 M25 area. Genuine letters only. Photo apprec. ALA. Box No 1766.

WORDLY witty man sought by Sloane Ranger living in East Anglia. I am a slim blonde of 49 with literary interests in need of good male company. Please reply with photo to Box 1413.

YORKSHIRE based elegant lady, mid fifties with so much feeling to give, wants gentleman, extrovert, humorous who wants real lifetime partner. If you live in Yorkshire, I could be the friend you are looking for. Box 1929.

YOU love life but long for someone special to share it. And, like me, you're successful, funny, gorgeous, tall, 39+, creative & prefer a country life (south) to city glitz? How else will we meet? Do write. Box No 1899.

YOUNG 50, Japanese, graduate businesswoman, pretty, divorced, sociable, 5'3, affectionate. Interests: music, theatre, conversation seeks graduate, wealthy professional or businessman, lively for committed relationship. London. Photo appreciated. Box 1646.

YOU'RE idly looking though the ads, suddenly you see me..... I'm the attractive, warm, musical, psychotherapist in the last column. You're intrigued! Being adventurous, creative, mature (50ish) with humour, you write. We meet! NW London. Box No 1579. Photo appreciated.

GENTLEMEN

ABLE, Athletic, handsome, n/s mid 40s seeks that special someone to cook for, care for and caress. Photo app. (London) Please Reply to Box No 1676.

ACTIVE up market, stylish, with Bournemouth at his feet seeks personality girl to swing along with him. Box No 1872.

ARE you open with your feelings? I am and seek soul mate, non smoking lady, 50-60 who likes laughter, music, food, countryside, log fires, holding hands. West Midlands. Chris, Box No 1840.

ARE you under 40, tall, attractive with good sense of humour? I am a 45 6'2 tall, London based professional looking for a permanent relationship. Photo appreciated. Box No 1818.

ARTICULATE amusing, Warwickshire gentleman. Fit, forties, slim, sporty, healthy, humorous, very loosely tied WLTM a friendly, fit, convivial, conventional, slim, sensuous, ideally independent lady who will attend to this nasty dose of alliteration. Reply Box No 1820

A SIMPLE letter - and life gets better? Try me! Kind and handsomish businessman in 50s hankers to find kind and handsomish Surrey/Sussex lady in 30s/40s. Box 1873.

A tall dark, goodlooking, consultant physician in late 40's seeks slim, tallish, highly attractive lady in her 30's or 40's who is also intelligent, vivacious and fun. Possible long term commitment. I love travel, theatre, restaurants, tennis and cosy evenings at home. I own a private medical clinic and also luxury house overlooking rolling downs in North Surrey near London. Extrovert and warm I am, stuffy doctor I am not. Photo appreciated and returned unless you are very gorgeous when you will need to meet me to get it back. Please Reply to Box No 1656

GENTLEMEN

A Top Grade entrepreneur, young fit 42 year old Englishman loves Travel, exploring visits regularly different countries including UK (Lives abroad at the moment) seeks woman with wit & panache who enjoys visiting exotic places/winter or watersports or any wild adventure. (Good conversation will do too!). Reply to Box No 1734 with telephone & photo please.

ATTRACTIVE, fit 65 yr old, Sagittarian. Likes town, country, cinema, animals, sailing, cooking. Seeks attractive 40-50 lady with GSOH. S.W. London/Surrey. Box No 1896.

AUTUMN MIST country walks, cosy talks. Hampshire man, 46ish, seeks lady to share these and more. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 1612

A West Midlands Marketing Director with so much to offer, early forties extrovert, romantic and affectionate. If your over 30, fun, affectionate and want a sincere, caring partner and lives West Midlands, photo and letter. Box No 1950.

A writer & journalist, 32, slim, fit, 1.75m, with glasses, nice looking, Asian. I am studying at present. Would like to meet a pretty white female, single or divorced (student welcome), under 30, with warm and honest personality, for real love, travelling round the world. London, Manchester or anywhere. Photo (returned). Please Reply to Box No 1613.

BARBOUR/WELLIES but no Range Rover! Man with Le Creuset & appetite in Lincs seeks lady with Aga & recipes. I am 39, tall & slim. Age, size and pulchritude not as essential as eloquence & erudition. A Radio 4 devotee preferred. Please send photo of Aga etc. Reply to Box No 1966

BIG strong phlegmatic dentist 42, GSOH, seeks attractive, erudite younger lady to share and enjoy the future. If snuggling up by the fire with a bottle of wine and an old movie, weekends away and sleeping late appeal to you then please reply with a recent photo. Box No 1564.

BIRMINGHAM West Mids. Are there attractive intelligent women who value independence but want involvement? Fit aware tolerant male grad 64, varied interests, conversation, arts, jazz, hillwalking etc. Seeks grad/prof fit, slim, tallish/tall free spirited, broad minded sensual woman 48-58, friend/lover. Photo returned. Please Reply to Box No 1561.

BUSY professional man, medium build, 54, widowed but had very happy and successful marriage. Christian, warm, caring, kind, affectionate, open confident personality, n/s, varied mainly cultural interests particularly music. Based east Midlands. WLTM 40-60 something professional/ business lady of similar qualities. Attractive, feminine with own interests for friendship initially. Recent photo appreciated and your phone no please.Box No 1796.

CEREBRAL, iconoclastic, humanistic, sensual, solvent, London-loving, retired Lawyer, 61, looking for long term relationship with literate, tolerant, informal lady who does'nt mind smoking and prefers the local bistro to dressing up for Ascot. Reply to Box No 1917

CHRISTIAN MAN 36, lives Surrey, works City, enjoys music, wining/dining, gardening, countryside. Seeks Christian woman to share faith/interests. Box No 1958

COMPASSIONATE successful, professional man, 5'9, late forties who enjoys the theatre, art, restaurants, golf, walking, travel, is working too hard and needs a cultured, attractive lady late 30s or 40s for friendship, romance and a balanced interesting life. London, Home Counties. Letter and recent photo please. Please Reply Box 1409.

CORNWALL, yachtsman, youthful 59, own business, enjoys classical music and theatre as well as the outdoors. Kind, considerate and humorous. Seeks slim, mermaid, photo would be nice. Reply to Box No 1915

DORSET male (not Cerne Abbass Giant), 49 (not neolithic) divorced, seeks the woman of his dreams to fan the smoldering embers in his heart and to enjoy the good things in life. Carpe Diem. Please Reply Box 1652.

EARLY Christmas present! Stylishly wrapped: tall, but not large: well-preserved (early 40s n/s), but not pickled; silly SOH, but sound financially: seeks slim lady for festivities, laughter and more. S/SW. Photo ensures reply. Box No 1802.

ELIGIBLE, well presented, 6ft., ambitious manager, 35, single, professional, educated, polite, VGSOH, n/s. Likes travel, History, conversation, chocolate, cinema, going out. WLTM young lady 24-32, any nationality, intelligent, kind, stylish. Berks, Oxon, Wilts, Hants, Glos, Avon. Photo apprec. Box 1240.

ENGLISH gentleman, 44 years, 5'11, Taurean, ex public school, professionally qualified. Interests include, horses, boats, cars, art. Smart in appearance, caring and capable companion with old fashioned standards seeks attractive lady with a similar solvent background to enjoy the better things in life. Photo please. Box No 1707.

EVER optimistic divorced Oxford male, 41, seeks life's great love - you must be out there. Photo/children optional - Please write to Box No 1816.

GENUINE successful company chairman, 42, 6ft, handsome/rugged, non pretentious, fun to be with, loves children, seeks balanced lady to complete the picture. All letters answered. Please Reply to Box No 1702.

GOOD Morning and I hope you are well. Let me introduce myself. I am G, a busy, successful, tall, CEO, who is 37 years old, single, devilishly handsome (so his niece says), with a kind heart and twinkle in his eye. I live 'far from the madding crowd' in the heart of the south. I would like to be introduced to an intelligent, very slim, proud and very pretty young lady up to 28 years of age. I would be most pleased to accept an introduction from a mother, grandmother or an older brother, or a friend. Yours honourably. Reply to Box No 1784.

GUYS GALORE short of girls and a party planned. We girls: Executive/Professional careers, London homes, attractive & 30something. If that's you too, let's speak. Patricia 0181 392 9009 weekends & eves.

HANDSOME very successful 6ft slim fit businessman age 31, own luxury home, magnificent car and many other trappings of success but still very loyal, genuine and sincere seeks slim, attractive lady 21-35. Yorkshire/Midlands. Photograph essential. Box No 1876.

HANDSOME hedonist. London based 38yr old, seeks sophisticated lady. He: highly educated international businessman. She: sparky, loves travel, to wine and dine, aged 24-34. Write with photo and tel number. Please Reply to Box No 1664

HAPPY & NICE tall, slim, n/s, teacher, mid 50's, would like to explore arts, travel, love with slim n/s, 40's lady. London/SE. Photo much apprec. Box 1893

I AM a handsome 6ft active self employed professional gentleman, divorced, late 40s, lives West London, enjoys life. You are a stunning brunette 30-40s, intelligent with no hang ups seeking intellectual and physical stimulus friendship and fun. Photo and phone number please. Box No 1966.

I AM a widower of 4 years, 49, fair haired (long at present), blue eyes, 5'8, slightly build. I am self employed and (if it matters) wealthy and (if it matters) I have a degree. I own homes in London and Cheshire. My two children have grown up and it is time for me to start again with a younger woman. Photo (essential and which I promise to return) and phone number please to Box No 1961.

I AM a 32yr old Surrey man and definately not looking for a must be! As in must be this and must be that. But I am a man who is looking for a want to be, that is a woman who wants to be herself. Age and physical aspects are not that important after all good looks is just a matter of opinion. Please Reply to Box No 1822

JOIN Exclusive Company this Christmas. Extensive social events calendar. Tel Exclusive Co. 01564 776200.

JUST looking for a wonderful woman, bright, with a sparkle. City lawyer, 30, London area. Photo please. Box No 1724.

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LADIES Why call long distance? Close Encounters Sussex, Kent, Surrey, London, has an abundance of eligible men. Call free 0500 141 121.

LAWYER hard-headed but soft-hearted, forties, seeks graduate/professional female, 30's-40's, of warmth with keen sense of humour, who is also not enjoying the return to single life. Children not a problem. London area. Photo please. Reply to Box No 1860

LONDON BASED Banker, 51 years young, separated, grown up children, too busy to frequent wine bars to look for Mrs Right, WLTM attractive lady with GSOH for fun, friendship and perhaps more. Please reply with photo to Box No 1745

MANAGING DIRECTOR 49, 6ft 2ins, slim, dark-haired, presentable, divorced no children, based Chelsea, seeks genuinely attractive, interesting, tallish lady, 28-45, who is fun company to share a good lifestyle including dining out, travel, weekends away etc. Do write with photo to Box No 1943

ME, generous, outgoing, solvent, homo erectus, tall dark and wholesome in perfect working order. You, attractive, slim and smoothly sensuous, broad minded woman with own means and healthy regard for finance, preferrably 28-38, n/s, for friendship and fun. Photo and chatty letter a must. Please Reply to Box No 1865.

MUCH travelled successful businessman, tall, 6'3, considered good looking, 50 year's old, very fast wit and fun to be around. Minimum baggage. London based. Would like to here from truly attractive ladies up to 40. Photo essential. Box No 1697.

MY Cancerian darling, public school lady, me same sign and background. Longing for you. Me, 60s, you I hope 45-55, SOH, n/s, maximum 5'6. Please may I have your photo. Please Reply to Box No 1587.

NICE man 39 and boy 10 would like to create lasting partnership with clever, sane, n/s and creative woman. SW London/Surrey. Please Reply Box 1794.

ORIENTAL LADY Looking into your almond eyes all my yearning will subside. Romantic gentleman (successful postgrad, 33, 5'7, fair, various interests from art to exercise) is searching fro his true love. Please reply! NW England + beyond. Please Reply to Box No 1966

OSTENSIBLY James Fox: really James Dean with James Garner tendencies, own velvet voice, impish smile invites pouty lipped, saucer eyed, voluptuous vamp with Helen Mirren mind (ono) for sharing his 56th Xmas at seoq. (West Lond). Box 1181.

PART time lover, friend, mate? I live in London, you live in the country, let's spend weekends together in London and or the country. Golf, tennis, good food, theatre, movies etc. You: very attractive, 38-48, great figure, good personality, very feminine, stylish, I am the male equivalent and tall. You won't be disappointed, the sky's the limit. Reply to Box No 1714.

PETER PAN 50., n/s, fit, active and adventurous who is more at home in a wet suit than pinstripes seeks Wendy 38+ for happiness. Chatty letter please Reply to Box No 1690

PROFESSIONAL male (47), lives Bucks, works central London. Interested in wining, dining travel walking seeks slim lady 30+ with similar interests. Please Reply to Box No 1677.

SEEKING the right cultured lady wanting to combine professional life with raising a family with similar successful n/s batchelor aged 50 who lives and works in central London. Please Reply to Box No 1773

SINCERE Slim, man 51, well travelled, wide interest, WLTM female, n/s, slim, intelligent, caring, honest, homely, WSOH, under 38 in Essex/London. Photo Please. Reply Box 1683

SMART successful sporty generous, GSOH, fun loving, bashful Scot, 39, living in Sussex wants to enjoy life with someone with reciprocal qualities. Looking forward to Christmas and a new year. Reply to Box 1669.

STRONG, loyal, faithful, handsome, batchelor country dweller needs a girlfriend for fun and friendship & maybe more. 20-30 years old. Slim, fit, petite (under 5'5") pretty, understanding & honest. I'm 37 own business travel a lot & generally have 2 tickets! I go to lots of beautiful places and would like to share these with you. Photo essential. Write soon Please Reply to Box No 1949.

SURREY 42, self employed, insolvent, divorced smoker with absolutely no wit or savoire faire, WLTM complete opposite thirty something lady. Please Reply to Box No 1967.

TIRED OF single supplements? Intelligent, independent, n/s, 20-35yr old sought by tall, slim, fun & experience seeking 29yr old for friendship on Far East Holiday, Jan 96. Photo would be nice. Reply Box 1897

VERY HANDSOME professional man 34, tall, fit, slim, dark hair, green eyes, warm smile and usually very modest. Educated, honest, friendly, romantic but tend to work too hard seeks distraction from a lovely lady who is also looking for lasting romance. London/ Surrey/ Hampshire/Anywhere. Please Reply to Box No 1736

VERY Successful businessman, tall, slim, kind and easy going WLTM tallish, slim, attractive lady, n/s, age not important, but must be very smart. Photo please. Reply to Box No 1818

WILD man (hidden under Oxbridge education, lots silver hair) WLTM woman cyclist with aesthetic tastes for earthy and ethereal trysts and travel. Please Reply to Box No 1668.

ZAP me, colourful character, 40s, south Bucks based seeks attractive, sensuous playful female (30ish) who reads these columns backwards. Please Reply to Box No 1729.

CHARMING generous, successful businessman, early 50s, 6ft tall, slightly over weight (but working on it), enjoys socialising, horse racing (owner), winter and sun sports, lives M4 corridor, seeks attractive, slim, vivacious, 30-45 year old lady who enjoys countryside, for fun and romance. Photo guarantees reply. Box No 1394.

CHESHIRE rich, slim, attractive, 32 year old, enjoys good food, wine, dancing & trouble, seeks, good looking, fun, honest, soul mate to travel the world. Photo essential. Box No 1382.

CHRISTMAS / Winter in SW France? fit, free, well-educated, well-travelled, well worn (but worn well) woman wanted. Londoner (SW) would like to hear details of your cultural tastes and sporting activities. Reply to Box No 1497

CINDERELLA does this fit? Nice looking, good figure, likes to laugh, travel to the sun, no children, no hang ups, 38-45, living in London, looking for excitement. I am tall, athletic, wealthy, good fun, easy going, stylish, hate winters and have a totally open mind. Photo please. Please reply to Box 1538.

COMPASSIONATE successful, professional man, 5'9, late forties who enjoys the theatre, art, restaurants, golf, walking, travel, is working too hard and needs a cultured, attractive lady late 30s or 40s for friendship, romance and a balanced interesting life. London, Home Counties. Letter and recent photo please. Please Reply Box 1409.

COUNTRY Doctor - S.E. Very early 40s. Tall, slim, fit, n/s. Enjoys good food/wine, music, travel, sport. Seeks attractive like-minded female (30-40). Children optional. Please reply with photo to Box No 1459.

DARK 5'9, easy going, very young 42, looking for brains, serious sense of humour and looks. Reply to Box No 1399.

EAST Midlands. Very successful businessman, fit, well-travelled extrovert has everything except someone special, is looking for an exceptionally attractive woman 35-42, pref. tall, slim, successful, educated, GSOH, who values integrity and wants to enjoy life. Recent photo (returned), guarantees reply. Box No 1386.

EDINBURGH area: cultured businessman in early 40s wishes to meet attractive professional lady in early 30s for long term relationship. Lady should have a taste for the finer things in life but also have a strong sense of traditional family/home values. Photo and tel no please. Please Reply to Box No 0899.

FORMER seafarer and businessman, successfully early retd, mid 50s, well able to fend for himself but looking for crew for a ship shape inland birth with good food and quality grog in SE. Ladies who are n/s, trim and free to roam might like to check the ships master before signing on. Box No 1522.

GRAD 27, M, solvent, single, varied interests, seeks intelligent, funny, spontaneous female companion to share laughter, good times and possible romance in Glocs. area. Think we would meet? Reply Box 1541

HANDSOME Widower. Solvent businessman. As you may gather no culture-vulture but I am interested in many things & have an open mind to all new ideas which any lady may wish to bring to a relationship. Pooling experiences strikes me as a quick way to learn to live again. Pushing 60yrs I need a few short cuts. So I seek an attractive lady who empathises with most of the foregoing. Photo please. Reply Box No 1137

HAPPY unpretentious, good looking, Essex businessman, 40, who loves life, walking, talking and travelling, WLTM a beautiful slim woman, who is happy and wants a partnership. Photo please. Please Reply Box 1256.

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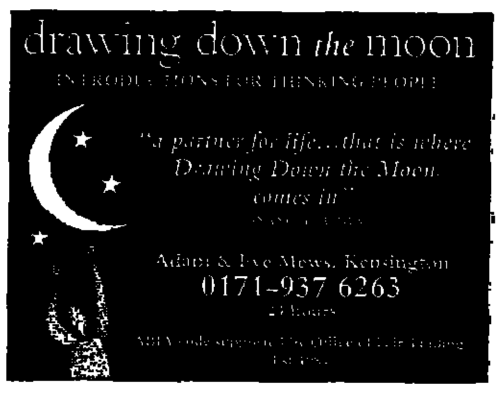

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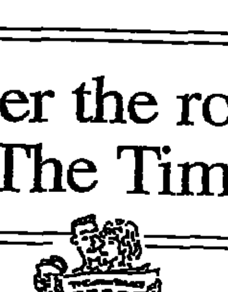

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Source: NRS Jan-June 94

هكذا من الاصل

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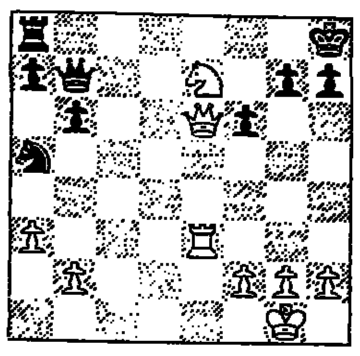
GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

TODAY I continue to pick out the best of readers' questions.

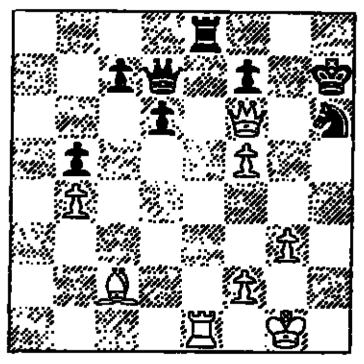
The following diagram is the concluding position from the game between Jon Speelman (White) and Jon Levitt. London Lloyds Masters, London 1992, which I published on September 1.



Here Black resigned. Peter Wylie of Devon wonders why Black didn't try 1 . . . h6 (directed against the threat of Ng6+). After 1 . . . h6. White can win the black knight with 2 b4, but even stronger is 2 Rh3.

White now threatens 3 Rxh6+ gxh6 4 Qxf6+ mating, and surprisingly Black has no sensible way to defend against this threat.

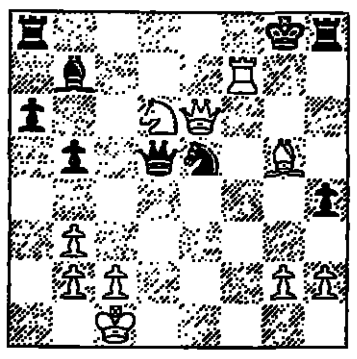
The next position is a variation from the game Kasparov-Short, Times World Championship, London, game 7, 1993 which I published as a Winning Move on September 29. Black is trying to relieve the pressure against his king by exchanging rooks. Should White acquiesce, or can he do better?



Solution: 1 Re6! destroys the black position. 1 . . . fxe6 2 fxe6+ wins the black queen, while 1 . . . Ng8 leads to 2 Qh4+ Kg7 3 f6+ Kf8 4 Rxe8+ Kxe8 5 Qg5 and White wins.

M Balfour of Roxburghshire and Alan Mercado of Hornchurch suggest that White could also win with the ingenious move 1 Re7, the ideas being: 1 . . . Rxe7 2 Qxe7 Qxe7 3 f6+ followed by the capture of the black queen, 1 . . . Rxe7 2 Qxe7 Qc8 3 f6+ and 4 Qe4 with a quick mate and 1 . . . Qc8 2 Rxf7+ and White wins quickly. This is a brilliant idea but unfortunately, it is refuted by 1 . . . Rxe7 2 Qxe7 Qxe7 3 f6+ Qe4! 4 Bxe4+ Kg8 and Black escapes into an endgame with equal material, although White still has some slight chances to win. Extra credit goes to Gordon Pearce of Leeds, who pointed out this defence.

The third position is a variation from the game Short-Kasparov, Times World Championship, game 8, 1993 which I published as a Winning Move on October 4. This is the kind of position at which a chess computer excels. White has a forced mate in four moves. Can you find it?



Solution: 1 Rg7+! Kxg7 2 Nf5+ Kf8 (2 . . . Kh7 3 Qh6+ and 4 Qg7 mate) 3 Qe7+ Kg8 4 Qg7 mate.

Dr J. Yeadon of Sheffield points out an alternative mating finish for White, starting with a different double check: 1 Rf8+ Kxf8 2 Be7+ Kg7 3 Nf5+ Kh7 4 Qh6+ Kg8 5 Qg7 mate. Well spotted, but this solution is one move longer and one should always go for the shortest possible checkmate.

WINNING MOVE

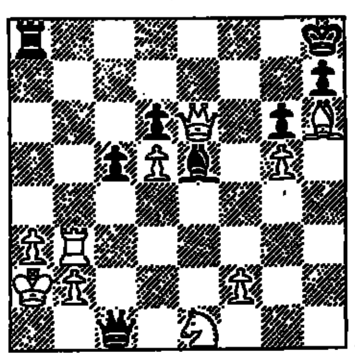
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Grigoriev - Nadisewa, USSR 1995. Although the black pieces are on attacking posts, it looks as if White, for the moment at least, has everything under control. How did Black prove that this was not the case?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 Bh3

Last week's winners: J. W. St Hill Davies, Amersham, Buckinghamshire; Dr G. A. Roberts, Hertfordshire; N. Saleem, East London.



PUNCHLINE

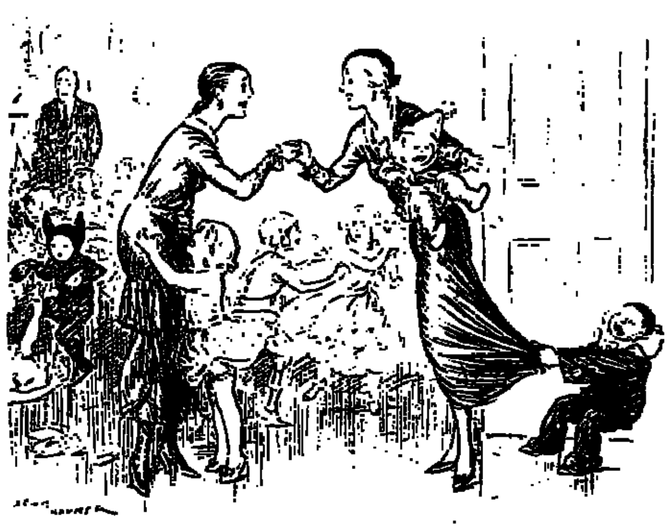
READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption 83, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

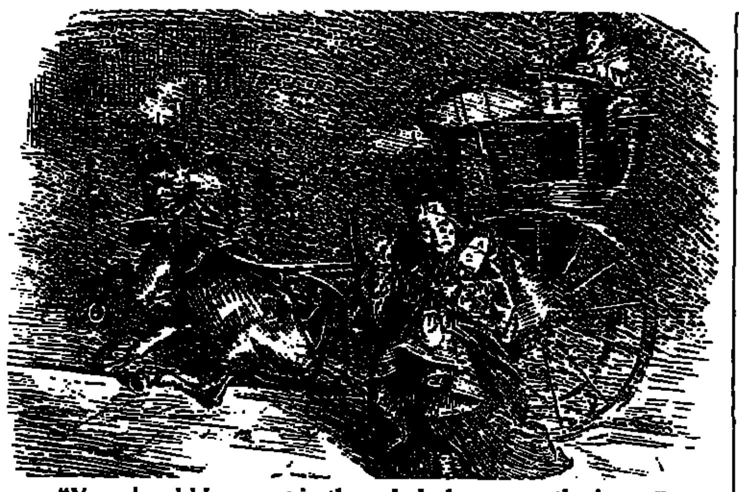
The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 22.



FIN DE SAISON.

Heroic Mother repeating formula. "I'm afraid we must tear ourselves away."



"You should have sat in the cab, lady, not on the horse"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by G. Davidson of London.

WORD-WATCHING

by Philip Howard

TRIGRAM
a. A trigonometric logarithm
b. A nonsense word
c. A small sailing boat

SKEET
a. A racing skate
b. A pickpocket
c. Clay pigeons

TAMURE
a. Pineapple mush
b. A village elder
c. A lascivious dance

TURR
a. A sea bird
b. A turf thatch
c. Spindrift

Answers, page 18

CYBERSPACE EIGHTEEN — THE WINNERS

SO JUST who is most in need of a Routefinder today? Politicians, sports heroes, actors with the name Hugh Grant were all nominated. Cyberspace Eighteen triggered entries for those you reckon to have most lost their way.

As was to be expected, many of you nominated John Major. Typical was the entry from Mr E. Stanley from Liverpool, who felt that Mr Major needed a Routefinder as "he isn't sure if Great Britain is or isn't in Europe".

Mr Dick Sutton from Scunthorpe suggested John Redwood "to enable him to locate Middle England", while Mr A. Williams from Southwark, southeast London, nominated Humphrey, the Downing Street cat.

Less friendly political animals were also put up for the gadget, including Ian Paisley who, according to Glasgow's James Murray, needs one "to show him that there are routes to Southern Ireland". Claire Short, suggested Mr R. Pole from Reading, needs one, being a "grassroots Labour politician".

Among the many nominations for racing drivers were Nigel Mansell, selected by Mr Ian Richardson from Cleveland, as "he only knows his way around the Grand Prix tracks — some handicap for a new special constable", and Damon Hill, nominated by Mr Keith Lawson from Poole, "to help him find the finishing line".

Alan Ball came in for plenty of stick for the performance of his football team, Manchester City. Mr Kevin Sartan from Liverpool mocked: "He needs one to enable him to find his way off the bottom of the Premiership." Mr Robin Powell from Tamworth, Staffordshire, nominated Juninho — Middlesbrough Football Club's star signing from Brazil — so that he can get to know the geography of the North East, as well as find "the quickest way to Teeside airport if he decides he prefers Rio after all".

Dr P. Vicary of Weybridge, Surrey, suggested that Samantha Brewster would need a Routefinder "for her lone sail around the world the wrong way".

And Will Carling was put up by many, including Ann Clancy of Dunstable, Bedfordshire: "He needs to find a new direction to escape from the mess of his personal life." Mr E. Tomlinson of Leicester was more specific, nominating Carling so that he could "find his way home directly to Julia — without going past Di's place".

The other royal nomination was the Duchess of York who, according to Miss Alexandra Yorke (no relation) from Coltishall, Norfolk, needs one to "find a way back to her husband's heart". Staying with popular fiction, Mrs D. Taylor of Horsham suggested Barbara Cartland — "to find another route through her novels".

DIONNE Warwick could use one to help her to find the road to San José, suggested Mr John Macritchie from Tayside. Mr Adam Khan from Birmingham nominated Lord Lucan and Mr John Rumball from Wigston, Leicestershire, proposed the gadget for Bet Gilroy, *Coronation Street*'s recently departed publican.

The winner — Mr Robin Powell for nominating Juninho — will receive the Routefinder together with a copy of Codemaster's **Micro Machines 96**. The five runners-up, who also receive copies of the game, are: Dick Sutton, James Murray, Ann Clancy, John Macritchie and John Rumball.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THESE are some problems that occurred in the exciting final weekend of the BBL Premier League.

Dealer South North-South game IMP's

♠43
♥J97
♦K976
♣KJ85

N
W E
S

♠AKJ8762
♥4
♦Q10543
♣-

Contract: Four Spades by South
Lead: two of hearts

As South you opened Four Spades and everyone passed. West leads the two of hearts and East plays the king, and continues with the ace. You ruff and play the ace and king of spades; West discards a heart on the second spade. You play a third round of spades, West discarding a club. When East takes the queen of spades he exits with a heart; you ruff, West playing the queen. How do you set about the diamonds?

Whether to bid over pre-empts is one of the most critical decisions in the game. What would you do on this hand when your right-hand opponent opens Four Spades as dealer? (You are love against vulnerable.)

♠9 ♥Q1062 ♦AJ82 ♣A632

Now at the same vulnerability your left-hand opponent opens Four Spades and there are two passes. What would you bid with

♠Q105 ♥AK853 ♦- ♣Q10974

All these decisions involve the hand shown below:

Dealer South North-South game IMP's

	♠43 ♥J97 ♦K976 ♣KJ85	
♠9 ♥Q1062 ♦AJ82 ♣A632	N W E S	♠Q105 ♥AK853 ♦- ♣Q10974
	♠AKJ8762 ♥4 ♦Q10543 ♣-	

As you can see, East-West can make either Five Clubs or Five Hearts. The hand was played at eight tables. At all eight the opening bid was Four Spades. At two tables Four Spades was passed out. At three tables West doubled the opening Four Spades for take-out.

If that is part of your armoury, I suppose there is a case for it at the vulnerability. It is more usual to play a double of Four Spades as optional, typically showing a flattish hand with at least strong no-trump strength.

At two of the tables where West doubled, East bid Five Clubs. This was the optimum East-West contract, and made when both declarers started clubs by playing off the ace. At the third table East passed the double, and after a defensive mistake Four Spades was made.

At the remaining three tables, West passed the opening Four Spades and East backed in. Two Easts bid 4NT, showing a hand playable in two suits, and again East-West ended in Five Clubs. At the third table this was the auction:

S	W	N	E
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
Dble	Pass	Pass	5♥
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

In my article on pre-empts a few weeks ago I said that after pre-empting you should in general leave all subsequent action up to your partner. The main exception is when you open with a game bid — these hands have a rather wider range of character than lower pre-empts. Here South had a good pre-empt with lots of potential, and he felt that over Five Clubs he was worth another bid. He doubled, which is in general the correct action if you decide to bid again — it says "Partner, I have a better than minimum opening Four Spades, and would like to bid on".

On this occasion Double was not a great success. East could have passed Five Clubs Doubled, which makes easily. However, he floundered on with Five Hearts (when you're not playing for money you can do that sort of thing), again finding his partner with four-card support. After two passes North, reasonably enough, doubled. From the auction it was pretty clear which way to play the clubs and so the contract made.

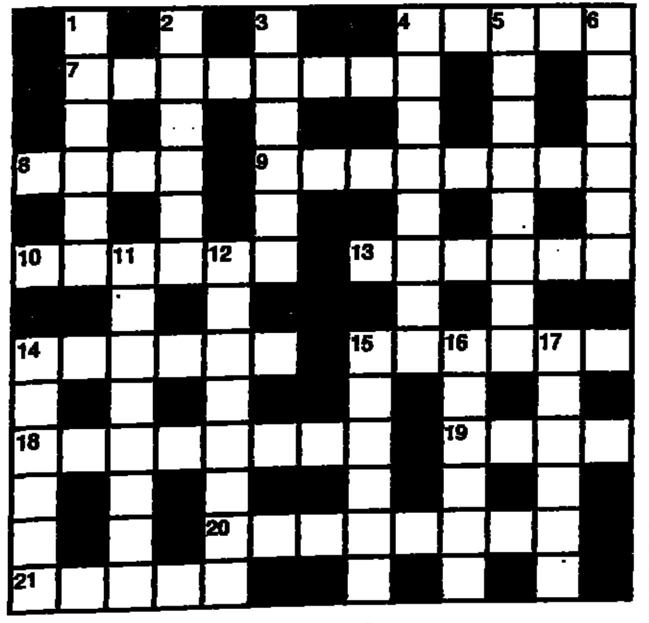
What about South's play in Four Spades, with no opposition bidding? Both John Armstrong and Brian Senior received a heart lead and continuation: after playing off three rounds of trumps each had to decide how to play the diamonds.

Both of them started by leading the queen, and were then able to restrict West to just one trick in the suit. You might say, isn't it better to start by leading a low diamond, in case West started with singleton ace? The reason why that is wrong is a subtle one.

First, with a singleton ace of diamonds, West might well have led it. In addition, if he had a singleton diamond along with a singleton spade, he might well have acted over Four Spades. Second, he has led the two of hearts, suggesting only four cards in the suit. So all in all, it looked as though West was the one with length in diamonds.

The play of the queen caters for his having four, and also still brings in the suit when West has three — declarer intends to finesse the nine on the second round. If East held the doubleton jack, West would have a 1-4-2-6 shape; from that he would probably have thrown clubs on both the second and third round of spades.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 630

ACROSS
4 The Good Book (5)
7 Most importantly (5,3)
8 Heap; stately home (4)
9 Scott novel; a railway station (8)
10 Soldier on watch (6)
13 Am. prairie wolf (6)
14 Soup serving-bowl (6)
15 Wild creature (6)
18 Asia Minor (8)
19 Flower, irreproachably white (4)
20 Causing obstruction (2,3,3)
21 Words of pop song (5)

DOWN
1 Simple; superficial (6)
2 Instigate (6)
3 Room for manoeuvre (6)
4 Proverbially unusual event (4,4)
5 Place for formal dance (8)
6 Catalyst protein in body (6)
11 Storyteller (8)
12 Art of speaking: empty talk (8)
14 Go on journey (6)
15 Am. Indian: Paris ruffian (6)
16 Relations by marriage (2-4)
17 Calms, relieves (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 629
ACROSS: 8 Orotund 9 Aware 10 Bête noire 11 Dot 12 Taken 14 Teheran 15 Windsor 17 Epsom 19 Oak 20 Orang-utan 22 Nonet 23 En route
DOWN: 1 Combat 2 Tort 3 Burn one's boats 4 Adrift 5 Page-three girl 6 Pandarus 7 Sexton 13 King Kong 15 Wooing 16 Reader 18 Minuet 21 Taut

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3332: BAD LOT by DUCK

CLUES and lights fall into three categories: 1) The subsidiary indication (to be entered on the grid) omits a group of letters. Each group of letters can be anagrammatised into a word, and the words from all these clues have something in common. 2) The clue has an extraneous letter added to it. The removal of an extraneous letter always leaves a word, but the corrected clue does not necessarily make sense. The letters taken in order spell a quotation. 3) Each asterisked clue consists of a subsidiary indiction only, its definition being the same as that for the set of words with something in common referred to in category 1. The subsidiary indication should be Playfair-encoded before entry on to the grid, with a name (initials plus surname associated with the quotation) as the code phrase. In a Playfair word square the code phrase (in which no letter recurs) is followed by the remaining letters of the alphabet, excluding J:

WCFIE,
LDSAB,
CHKMN,
OPQRT,
UVXYZ.

To encode a word split it into pairs. If the pairs are at the opposite corners of a rectangle, code them by the pairs forming the opposite diagonal similarly pointing up or down (thus NY = MZ, not ZM which YN would give). For a pair of letters in the same row or column, take the letters immediately to the right or below each respectively (thus LO = GU) and go back to the beginning of the row or column to encode any final letter (thus FE = IW). With this square, FELONY = IWGUMZ. Chambers (1993) is recommended, except for 6D (absent from most dictionaries) and proper names.

ACROSS
*1 Talent for catching fish
7 Worn-out dress for drama
11 Mammal heading off or remaining?
13 See resistor made of wax almost melt
15 Didactic series of notes incomplete
16 Wet and warm possibly — of doubtful repute
17 Ultimately made bet seen as crazy — the outcome?
19 Released gals oozed, going after American guy
20 Laid perhaps by church steps
21 Seek tram for transport — word used in conjunction with waves? (2 words)
23 Past eating much, small child is spotted having irregular bites
26 Spool with electrical current may be used in high-energy experiment
29 More irritable one protected by thin bit no longer?
30 *Sets on butts*
31 Civet-like creatures in ditch — so fear!
32 Collection of data that could be recorded on celluloid
34 Runes covered by soldier and first woman governor
35 Pear's sprinkled for plant (2 words)
36 First soldier's minimal part in play
*37 Sound of storm in bygone days

DOWN
1 Old hanger turned up — little man in Bedford destined for gallows?
2 Erected a power unit around capital city
3 Like missile that's carried by warrior?
4 What liver isn't beginning to suffer before end of day's carousal?
5 A corpse heard to fall naturally
6 Frightful gall, bedad, shown in an umpire's call (2 words)
8 What could be term for state associated with sin's blame?
9 Foot has damaged tree's root
*10 One that's initially illiterate therefore
12 Being cut out, old flame may get sent in a religious sense
14 Catch of herrings 'huge' — silly liar's not right — story to be taken thus? (3 words)
18 Firm in city is in clutches of nasty bear?
22 Artist to chuck what may come with gain up
*23 A superior parent with nothing to hide
24 Continental communication from Latvian son
25 Bringer of cure makes the lady swallow tale
27 High official makes administrative trainee break out
28 Tina, a wife offering a pumpkin
31 System of tenure imprisoning wife effectively? On the contrary
33 Flowery outer covering, not hard

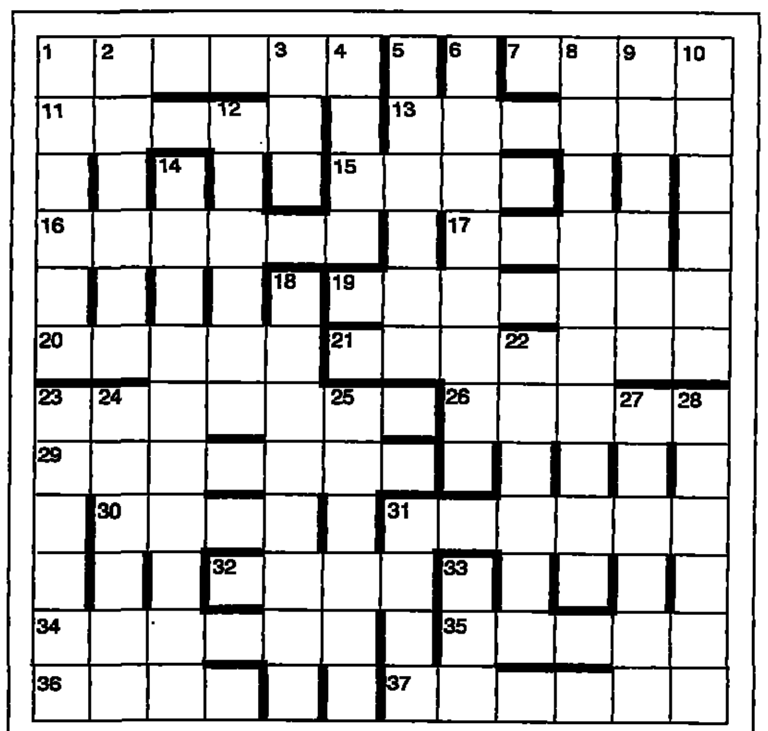
3	3	2	2	0	6	1	1	5	4	0
4	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	3	1	0
2	1	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	8
1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
3	3	0	2	1	2	2	5	8	8	6
0	4	X	4	1	1	2	6	Y	4	4
4	6	2	1	1	5	2	5	2	4	0
1	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
0	2	2	3	1	1	3	2	3	0	0
2	2	2	2	1	3	2	1	0	1	5
7	0	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	7	6

Solution to No. 3329:
Alphanumerics II by Piccadilly

ACROSS: 1 ENSNARE anag 4 PIN-UP, PIN + UP 7 NENE inits 9 SEN hidden 10 REMISS, RE + MISS 12 PIER, PIE + R 13 SHAM, S + HAM 15 HUMUS, HUM(U)S 17 ERE alternate letters 19 ISLE, IS + L + E 21 PEEL 3 meanings 22 ALLA MARCIA comp anag 24 NEAR MISS anag 25 ANA, AN + A 27 HEM IN hidden 28 ARIA, A(R)IA 30 SPINES, S(PINE)S 32 Hull 2 meanings 35 PELL-MELL, PELL + MELL 36 AA, A(CONCAGU)A 37 PILL, P + ILL 39 PUN central letters 42 SNAIL-SHELL, anag + SHE'LL 43 AHA inits 44 MENU comp anag 45 LESS, LE + SS 46 SURA hidden 47 A CAPPELLA, A + CAPP + ELLA 48 SUPINE, hidden, reversed

DOWN 1 EMEU, EME + U 2 SIREN, S(IRE)N 3 LENS cf LEN'S 4 EPEE inits 5 NEAR, N + EAR 6 MINI cf MINNIE 7 SARRASIN, S + AR + anag 8 PERSE cf PURSE 11 EE hidden 14 RULE 3 meanings 16 NULLAH, H(ALL)UN reversed 18 LIS, L(I)S, 20 REIN, RE(STRA)IN 21 PRIME, EMIR + P reversed 23 SPA hidden 26 ERA hidden 27 ENE, E + NE 29 LIPPIE anag PI(NT) + PI(NT) + (BUSH)EL 31 PIP 2 meanings 33 PINS, SNIP reversed 34 ALL-UP, A + PULL reversed 35 PURSUE, PURS(U)E 38 HELP, H E + L P (Beatles film & LP) 39 SUSHI comp anag 40 ALE 2 meanings 41 SESSILE, anag 42 MARS 2 meanings.
LETTER VALUES: A=10, L=4, P=11, H=8, N=7, U=9, M=6, E=3, R=5, I=2, C=0, S=1. COLUMN BASES from left to right: 5, 8, 3, 6, 2, 7, 4, 12, 9, 11, 10 ROW BASES from top to bottom: 9, 5, 6, 2, 11, 12, 10, 3, 4, 7, 8

The winner is Jane Shaw of Lancashire. Runners-up are: Tim Pilgrim of West Yorkshire and J. Gill of Surrey



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3332

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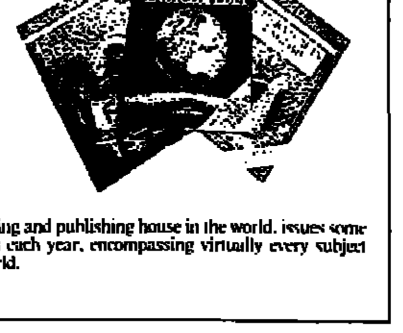

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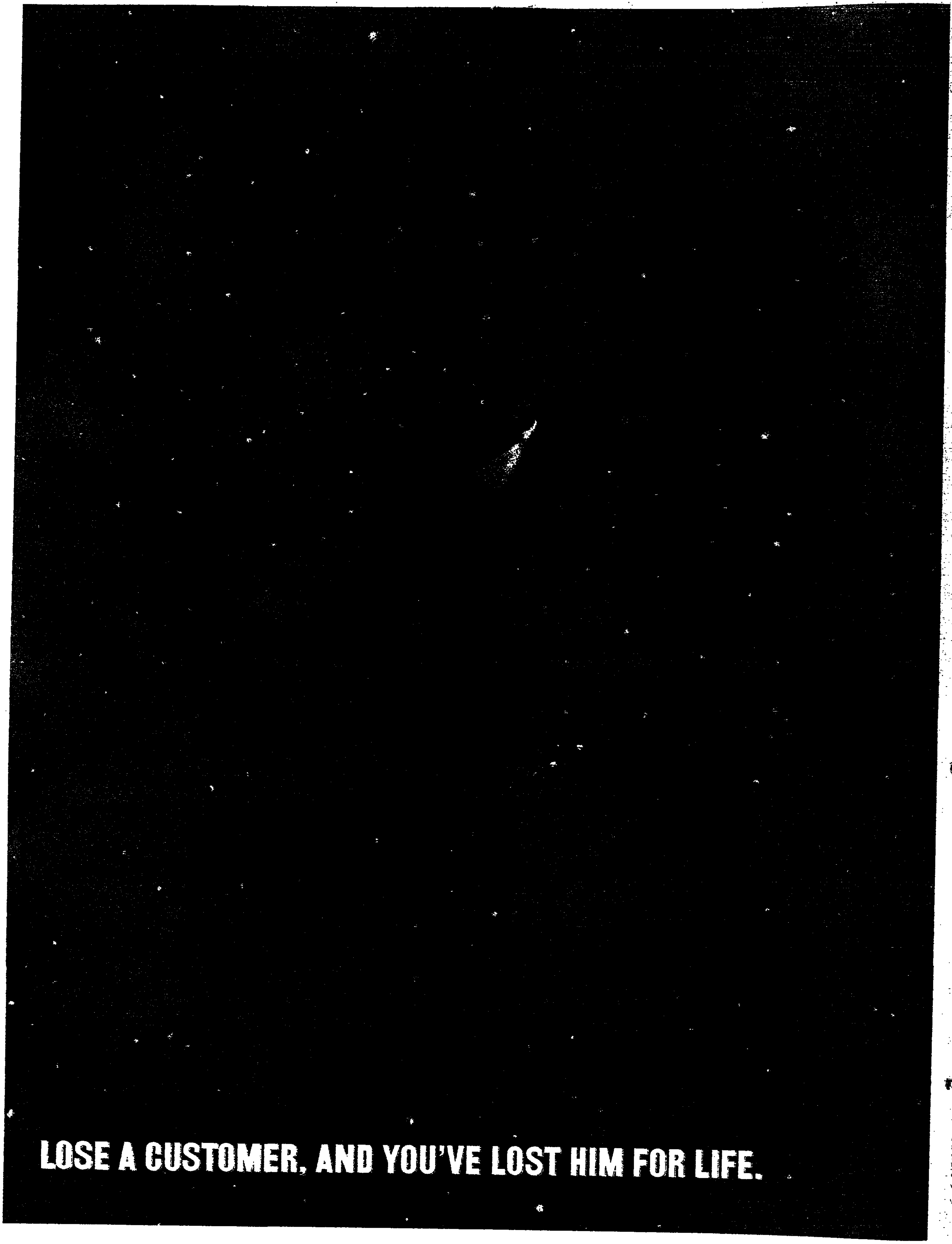

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Are you sitting comfortably? A family business

Page 7

CAR 95

RAC Rally Special: McRae's world title bid

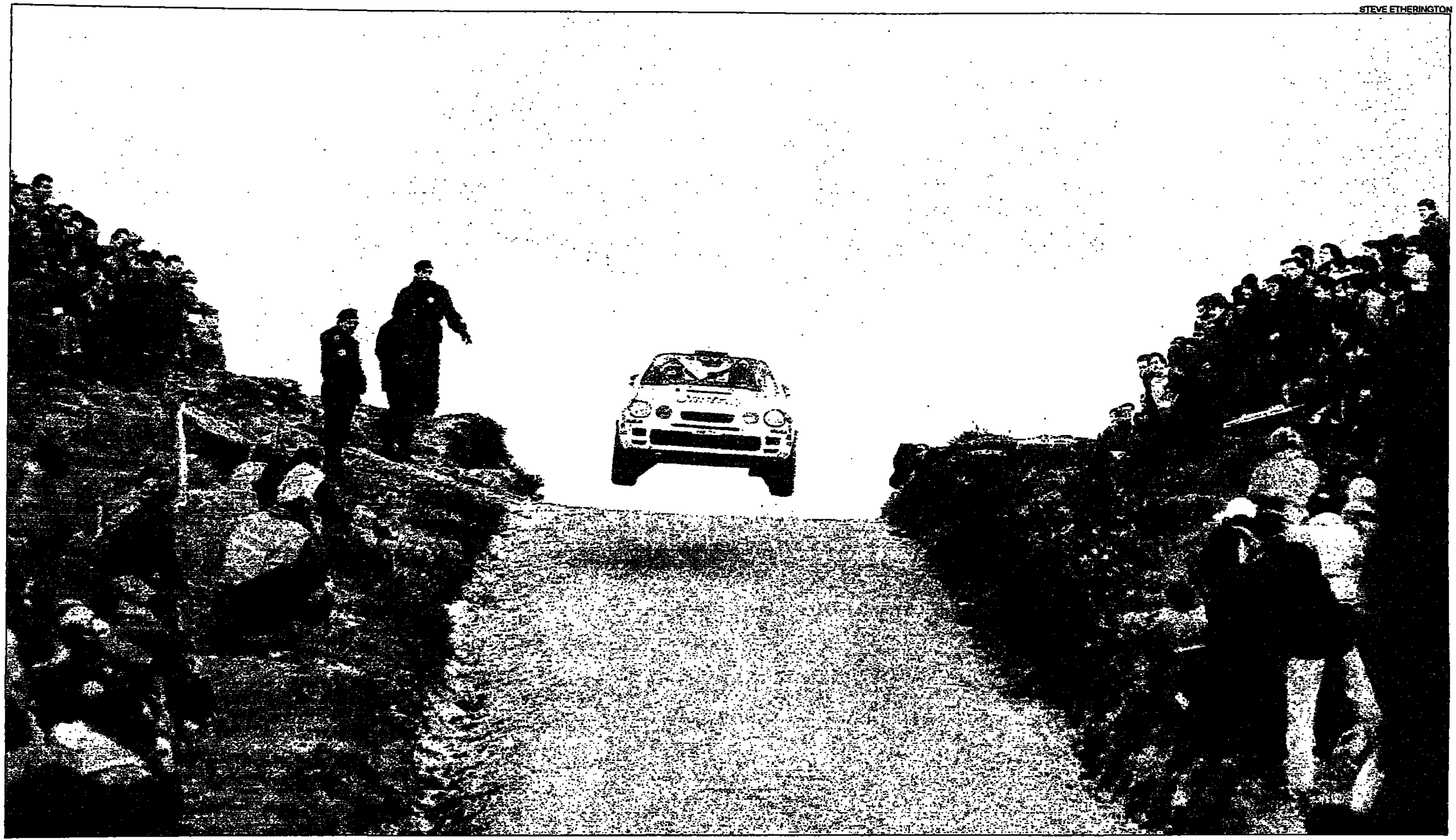
Page 5, 12

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18 1995

Kevin Eason reports on 'the most blatant piece of cheating' — and the massive penalty that has been imposed

Toyota blasts itself off the rally track

STEVE ETHERINGTON



Toyota flies high during the 1995 Rally of Portugal. By illegally allowing 25 per cent more air to pass into the engine, the car was able to leave rivals standing until international investigators exposed it at Spain's Catalunya rally

And then there were three. The Network Q RAC Rally starts tomorrow with one of the leading four contenders missing, thrown out for cheating on a scale that would make even steroid-popping athletes blush. The Toyota Castrol Team has been *eliminated* from rallying with the most spectacular penalty in the history of motorsport.

That might open the way for Colin McRae, last year's RAC winner, to storm to his first World Championship if he can perform well over the next four days, but it leaves a bitter taste in the mouths of fans who expected to see a dramatic four-way fight to the finish.

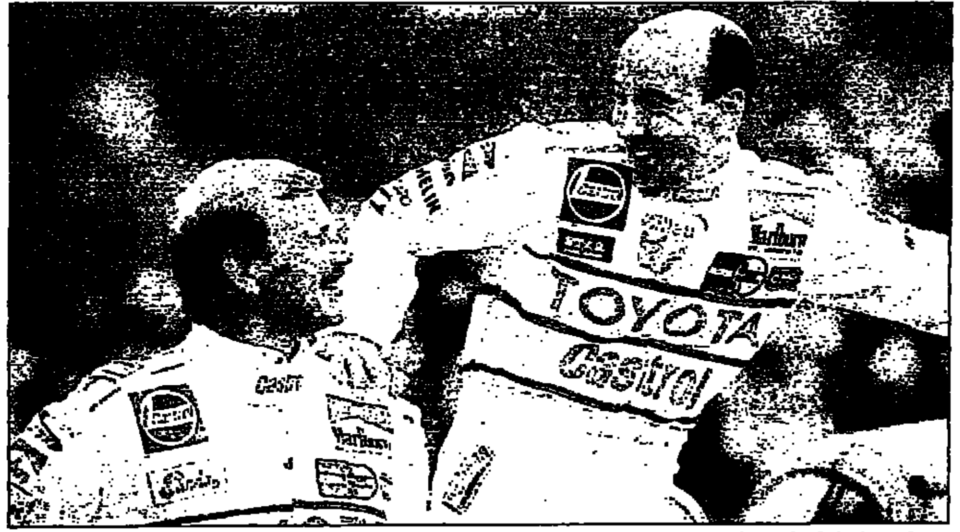
Imagine a Formula One championship without Michael Schumacher in his Benetton-Renault, not just suspended for a couple of races but hurled into the wilderness, unable to take get on the grid among 25 other cars. But for rallying, the sentence imposed on Toyota is even more dramatic, robbing Britain's biggest spectator event of one of its most important competitors. Unlike Formula One or the British Touring Cars Championship, rallying fields just four works teams: Mitsubishi, Ford, Subaru and Toyota, although there are dozens of privateers entered. And Toyota is now banned for a year for subverting the rules on limiting the power of turbochargers.

The clever device invented by Toyota Motorsport allowed 25 per cent more air to pass into the engine. According to Toyota's rivals, that could have been good for an extra 50 brake horse power — not significant going round the bends, but a colossal difference flat out in a straight line.

Someone twigged three months ago in the Rally Australia, when the Toyotas were astonishingly quick. Toyota's engineers had devised an elaborate mechanism which could remain virtually hidden from the eyes of rally officials but allowed the engine to take a blast of air which boosted performance way beyond what was possible for the team's competitors.

By the Catalunya rally in Spain, investigators from the Federation Internationale de l'Automobiles, which governs world motor sport, were on to the scam which had helped make the company's cars so quick. FIA officials described the device as "awesome" and the "most blatant piece of cheating" they had ever seen.

LES KOLCZAK



Out of the running: team drivers Kankkunen and Auriol have been stripped of their points

So Toyota was thrown out, the team and drivers Kankkunen and Auriol, stripped of their points. Rival teams were no doubt pleased to see the Japanese team punished, but they were also worried that the sentence was too stern, potentially damaging a sport which struggles to win the attention of television coverage even though as many as two million people will turn out at the trackside to watch the screaming, twisting rally cars swerve and slide their way across England, Scotland and Wales.

Subaru is now virtually guaranteed a world championship driver with McRae tying on 70 points with teammate Carlos Sainz. How much more satisfying for McRae, the 27-year-old from Lanark, if he won a second RAC and a world title knowing that it was against the strongest field.

David Richards, head of Prodrive, the British company at Banbury, Oxfordshire, which prepares Subaru's rally cars, told *Autosport* this week: "In one sense the penalty is correct, but in another it is too severe. A Subaru driver will win the World Championship, but I'd rather do it through a straight fight than like this."

The field promises enormous excitement anyway, with Britain playing a huge part in the entries, from McRae close to his world title to the works Mitsubishis, which are prepared by Ralliart in Rugby Warwickshire. Alister McRae, Colin's 25-year-old brother, is behind the wheel of a powerful Ford Escort Cosworth for the first time, while Malcolm Wilson, the 1994 British Rally Champion, is also fired up for what could be his last assault on the RAC after a 20-year career.

Ford fields the most cars with 55 in the RAC entry, followed by 30 Vauxhall/Opels, 22 Peugeots, 14 Mitsubishis, 13 Subarus, nine Skodas, eight Rovers, eight Toyotas, seven VW and Audi cars, four each for Nissan, Renault, Honda and Lada, two Lancias, two Saabs … and a Trabant.

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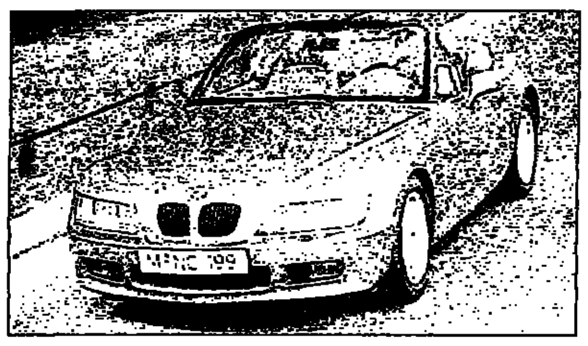
BMW Z3, LICENSED TO THRILL



● IF IT's good enough for James Bond, it's good enough for the British public. The BMW Z3, made in the USA, is a bargain basement roadster licensed to thrill. This week *CAR 95* takes the real star of *GoldenEye* for a test drive.

Forget cars that drive through whirlwinds or off the top of the Empire State Building. Forget supermodels draped over the bonnet, forget even Nicole and her Papa. If you really want to advertise your new model put Pierce Brosnan at the wheel in the latest Bond movie.

In a few weeks' time the M3 is likely to be the most famous car in the world. Its performance is matched by a mid-range Mondeo or Vectra, but the low-slung two-seater exagerrates the feeling of exhiliration and 1,400 British customers have already signed up, even though it won't be available here for at least a year.

Its price has not been fixed, but is likely to be less than £20,000, providing the fiercest competition yet for the much-acclaimed MGF. Road test, Page 10.

A powerful argument against buying a new car.

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ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA
David Hands on the new England at the new Twickenham and Alan Lee on the first Test in South Africa

WIN A HOLIDAY EVERY DAY NEXT WEEK
On Monday, a holiday for two in Thailand to be won

Tight deadline for galleries to raise £14 million and thwart Getty museum

Export ultimatum for Renaissance treasure

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

British art galleries have been given until January 8 to raise £14 million to save one of the greatest Renaissance masterpieces in private hands in this country. The painting, *The Holy Family with the Infant St John* by Fra Bartolommeo, a Florentine master who inspired Raphael, has been sold for £14 million to the Getty Museum in California by Viscount Gage, to pay for the maintenance of his stately home, Firle Place, near Lewes in Sussex. The export was immediately blocked by the Heritage Department on the ground that the painting is a national treasure.

The price has stunned art experts who fear that there is little chance of any public gallery in this country being able to match the sum. The painting, titled *The Holy Family with the Infant St John*, is one of only two important paintings by Fra Bartolommeo (1472-1517) in Britain.

The sale could prove a test case for the export system in the light of the Getty's unsuccessful bid to acquire a licence for the £7.6 million *Three Graces* last year. It was widely felt that the Government had behaved badly in manipulating the export rules. The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, which advises the heritage department, "strongly urged that every effort should be made to raise the necessary funds to make an offer to purchase arguably the best-preserved painting by Fra Bartolommeo from his finest period, 1508-12".

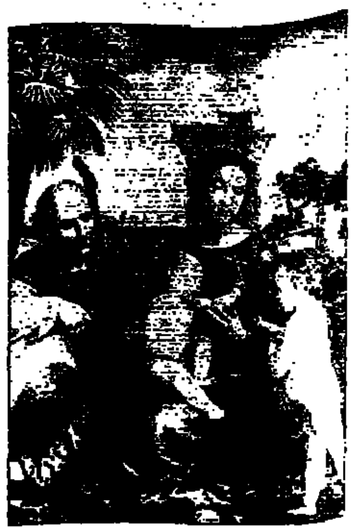
Leading scholars and dealers in the field expressed "total amazement" at the figure of £14 million. "At most, £5 million," one dealer estimated. The record auction-price stands at a mere £279,720, set in 1986 by Sotheby's in New York.

However, as one scholar noted, values are set by what people are prepared to pay for something, and this is possibly the only great Fra Bartolommeo that will ever come on to the market. Another suggested that the price is so far out of the reach of public collections, it is "meant to imply 'let us have it'."

Firle Place, a Tudor house remodelled in the 18th-century, is open to the public in the summer months and boasts a collection of English, Dutch, Flemish and Italian paintings.

Viscount Gage said that *The Holy Family with the Infant St John*, acquired by his grandmother, had hung in their Palladian drawing-room. He explained that dwindling cash in the maintainance fund had forced them follow the example of so many other families with stately homes to upkeep. He mentioned that little of the money raised from the sale of another picture ten years ago was left. He lamented losing the Fra Bartolommeo as it was his "favourite picture".

The trustees agreed that by selling something of such magnitude, there would be no need to dispose of anything else. John Walsh, director of the J Paul Getty Museum, said: "Our paintings collection is very modest in terms of size, and one of its major needs is a Florentine Renaissance masterpiece. This is a superb and beautifully-preserved painting."


Fra Bartolommeo's painting

Major backs plan to give Scots MPs a bigger say

By Philip Webster, political editor

SCOTTISH MPs are likely to be given a bigger role to debate and vote on their own affairs, Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, signalled yesterday.

John Major is understood to be backing a plan to strengthen the role of the Scottish Grand Committee as the Government puts forward its own proposals on constitutional reform to counter Labour's promise of a Scottish parliament.

Mr Forsyth is expected to announce full details in a speech on November 30. He said yesterday that the proposals were aimed at devolving power downwards and making the parliamentary scrutiny of the Scottish Office and Scottish ministers more effective. "What we are talking about here is ensuring we have more scrutiny of Scottish affairs and that ministers are held to account," he told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

The move follows Mr Major's comments at the Conservative Party conference last month that he was looking at ways to improve the government of Scotland.

Mr Forsyth criticised the opposition plans, saying that they would lead ultimately to a fully independent Scotland, and he accused Labour of seeking to alter the constitution for its own electoral purposes.

"If we have a parliament in Scotland, as Labour proposes, with tax raising-powers, then I am afraid we are going to be accelerating the break-up of the United Kingdom," he said. "That is the danger that everyone has to be aware of. I am afraid that Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown are the midwives of separatism."

However, the Tory plans were denounced by the opposition parties. Alex Salmond, the Scottish National Party leader, said that the Tories' limited proposals would serve only to underline the need for a fully independent Scotland. "I think the Prime Minister, by trying to concede more because he realises people won't put up with anything less, is actually underlining the democratic deficit in Scotland.

"Even the Prime Minister cannot seriously believe that a few votes on the Scottish Grand Committee, which could then be over-ruled by London, can satisfy the Scottish demand for real democratic change."

Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, said: "Anything that improves the government of Scotland is welcome but these proposals do not amount to a row of beans.

"Further Tory tinkering is no substitute for a Scottish Parliament. Mr Major's ideas have no real substance and fail to address Scotland's democratic deficit."

George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, said Mr Major's initiative smacked of "a panicky but well-packaged PR stunt".

Mr Robertson added: "If I thought it was going to give real decisive power to Scottish MPs over Scottish legislation, then we would take it seriously.

"But it seems to be little more than a cosmetic operation which is going to do nothing to satisfy the Scottish people, and indeed is likely to inflame opinion as expectations are dashed."

Magnus Linklater, page 10
Leading article, page 21

Thomas Taylor, a loyalist prisoner, is greeted on his release from the Maze jail

Major sets Ulster target

Continued from page 1

and should be acceptable to Dublin and Sinn Fein, informed sources said.

Mr Major's readiness to set a target date — possibly in about three months — for the involvement of Sinn Fein in the substantive talks is welcomed in Dublin, although Sinn Fein has been calling for a fixed date.

Much of the reworking is understood to concern the nature of the preparatory talks. Mr Major believes that one of the key changes since September is that the preparatory talks will now have more meaning because the tabling by the Ulster Unionists of proposals for an Ulster Assembly. Sinn Fein would be able to engage in such talks as an equal partner; it would have "parity of esteem", according to sources.

While London remains insistent that Sinn Fein cannot be admitted to the full talks until the IRA begins giving up weapons, it is willing to move ahead with setting up the decommissioning body and the preparatory talks before that issue is resolved.

London is also opposed to including British arms within the remit of the commission. But in a stance that will also be welcomed in Dublin, the unspoken word in London is that once the body is set up there is nothing to stop Sinn Fein raising any issue, including British arms, with it.

Mr Major's ideas will be presented to Mr Bruton over the weekend and they are expected to speak on the telephone early next week. Ideally they would like to hold a summit before President Clinton's expected visit to Britain and Ireland at the end of the month, but sources said there was no deadline.

Bishop threatens to quit

Continued from page 1

he was reprimanded by the Bishop after an investigation into a loss-making trip to Australia by the sub-dean, Canon Rex Davis, with the Lincoln copy of Magna Carta.

A bitter dispute arose between the Dean on one side and the four residentiary canons on the other, leading to a visitation by the Bishop.

A bishop is appointed by the Queen, after two names are chosen by a church body, the Crown Appointments Commission. The Dean of Lincoln is also appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the prime minister, in Dr Jackson's case Margaret Thatcher.

The bishop has jurisdiction over the diocese but not over the cathedral and is unable to sack the Dean or any of the canons, who have "a job for life" which means until retirement, by virtue of their freehold. The Dean has jurisdiction over the cathedral but, for the same reason concerning the freehold, is unable to sack his canons. The canons are appointed by the Bishop acting in his role as head of the diocese.

At Lincoln, the situation is further confused because according to cathedral rules the dean and his canons all have equal voting rights within the chapter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prescott lodges Nicholls complaint

John Prescott, the Labour deputy leader, lodged a formal complaint yesterday with Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, over the conduct of Patrick Nicholls, Tory MP for Teignbridge.

Mr Nicholls is alleged to have offered to use his influence in Whitehall to act for a private company in return for shares. Mr Nicholls has claimed he acted in accordance with the rules governing MPs' interests.

Shell picket plan

Environmental and human rights campaigners plan to picket Shell petrol stations today in protest at the company's £2.5 billion deal with Nigeria. They will ask customers to buy their petrol elsewhere and demand an official oil embargo.

Mother jailed

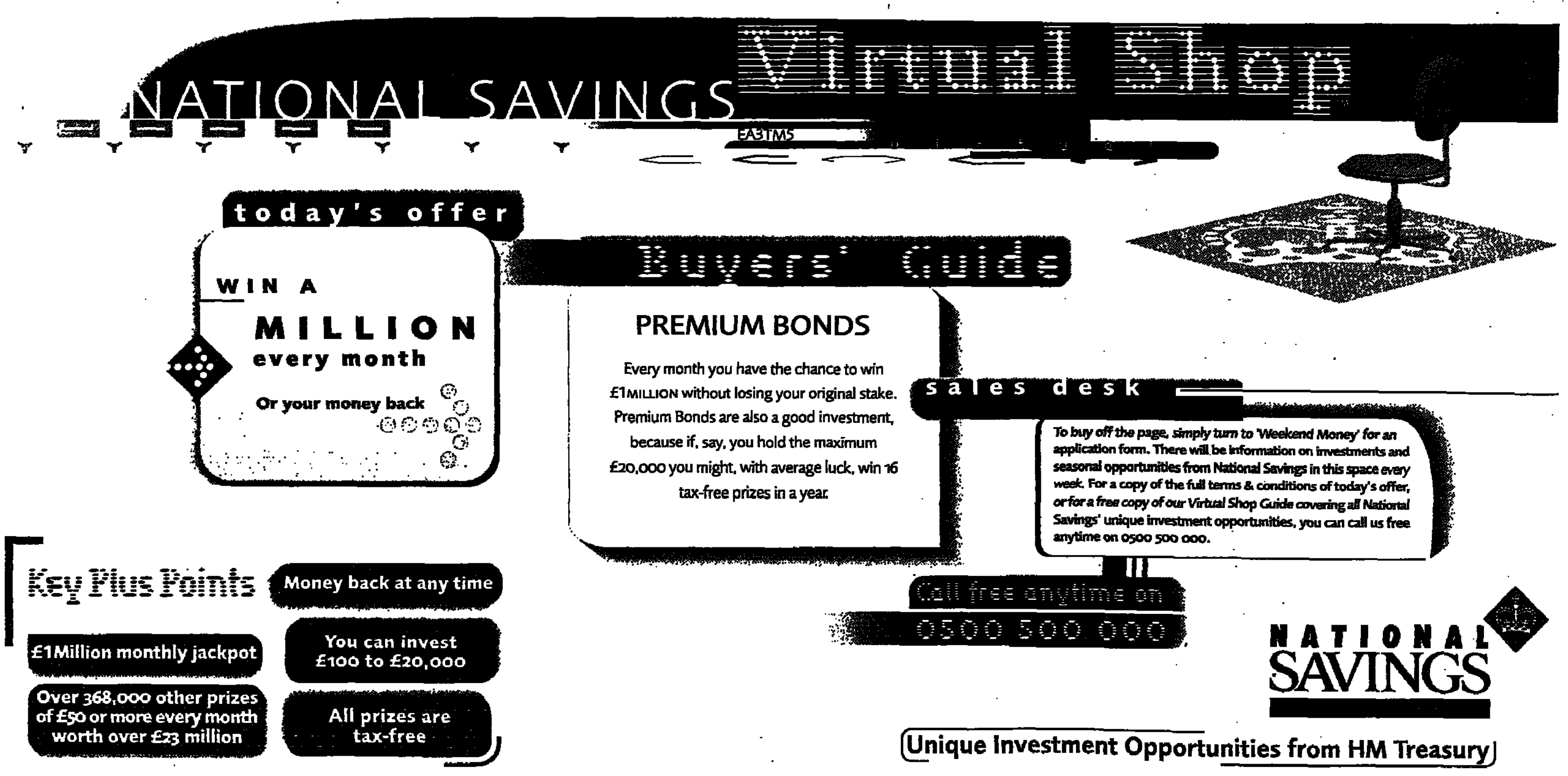
A single mother who claimed she became a drug courier to pay for her three-year-old son's Christmas was jailed for 4½ years by Southwark Crown Court. Susan Ellis, 35, of Rusholme, Manchester, was caught with heroin worth £100,000.

Video rewind

The BBC withdrew an announcement that *Panorama*'s Princess of Wales interview was to go on sale as a video. BBC Worldwide Enterprises staff announced the move; Nicholas Chapman, the managing director, said no decision had been made.

Hitman guilty

Raymond Johnson, 24, of Walworth, south London, was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm and remanded for reports yesterday, for disfiguring a woman's face with a knife after being hired by a jealous office rival.



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Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's **Kevin Eason** in a Ford Escort Cosworth on rally practice with Malcolm Wilson

It's driving, but not as we know it

MARTIN BEDDALL

Road surface not required: there was nothing like recognisable tarmac for comfort and Wilson whipped the Cosworth between the trees of Eskdalemuir forest at 100mph

Malcolm Wilson looked calm enough, and he has a wife and young son, so he must have wanted to survive. But cars are designed to travel on land, not fly through the air.

All in a day's work, though, for the 1994 British Rally Champion as he tested his Ford Escort Cosworth to the limits on a narrow, muddy track marked by conifers through the forest of Eskdalemuir in the Scottish borders.

Wilson was in the final stages of setting up the Escort for the sort of punishment normally reserved for a Chieftain tank — except Wilson tears between the trees at up to 100mph. And I was at his side on the last day of testing, eyes on stalks as the trees whipped past at unbelievable speed.

Inside the cockpit, Wilson looked busy but unruffled as he hurled the car into each corner, stamping his left foot on the brake with the right foot still clamped to the throttle so the Escort came through the other side as if fired from a slingshot. There was nothing like recognisable tarmac for comfort, while the hills and dips made Alton Towers' scariest ride look like a cakewalk.

At the bottom of the dip, my body was compressed as though I had a ton weight on my head: at the top of the rise, we took off. What goes up must eventually come down, and the car hit the ground like a mortar shell, sending a shock wave through my spine. While I clambered through the Escort's steel safety cage, knees knocking with the sheer exhiliration of the ton-up through the trees, Wilson emerged barely shaken and definitely not stirred.

It looks like the road car, but it's a £150,000 monster

That was nothing anyway, says Dave Hudson, Ford Motorsport's engineer, who goes out with all the Ford drivers, carefully noting each twitch and complaint as he guides the team towards the perfect set-up for each rally stage. He had been out in Welsh forests a couple of days before with Frenchman François Delecour.

"We were doing over 100mph when we took off and covered 23 metres in the air before we hit the ground, ready to turn through a hairpin. It was a bit scary for a moment." Rally drivers and their teams are clearly masters of understatement.

What Hudson, formerly with Aston Martin and TWR, one of Britain' top race companies, needs to know is that the suspension will still be in one piece when 1,200 kilogrammes of Escort hits the mud.

For the development, setting up and repair and maintenance of a rally car outstrips even worries over Formula One thoroughbreds. It is a 24-hour-day, seven-day-week all-year job setting cars so that four different drivers feel comfortable at the wheel and then making sure they are always ready to drive at full pace.

Alister McRae, younger brother of Colin and current British Rally Champion, was testing for the first time with Wilson before taking on the RAC in an Escort — and showing no signs of taking it easy with the test car. A large crack across the windscreen and broken offside mirror was evidence that the drivers did not always read every message from the four-wheel-drive correctly. And when they get it wrong, the mechanics have to leap into action, sometimes with only minutes to spare in the heat of the rally.

At least, they have technology to help them read the performance of driver and car. Hudson checks a laptop computer that plugs into the car to tell him how often Wilson flexed that left foot against the brake and how well engine and transmission reacted. If there is damage, a dashboard readout flashes its red warning so the mechanics can get to work.

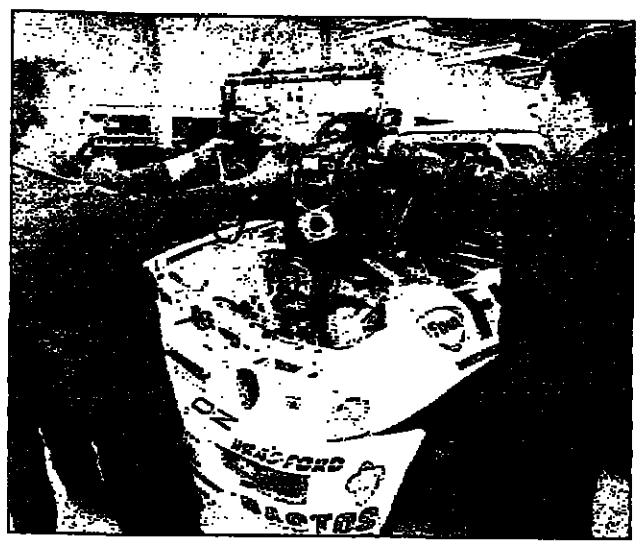
Even when the rally and testing is over, the mechanics' work is still not done. Ford's Escorts barely landed in Britain from the Catalunya rally in Spain, the last big event before the RAC, before they were at Ford Motorsport's headquarters at Boreham in Essex, being stripped. Every nut and bolt was cleaned of hundreds of miles of mud, sand and grit, impacted at high-speed, and then checked for stress or wear. The Escorts may look like the £24,000 road car, but under the shell is a £150,000 monster.

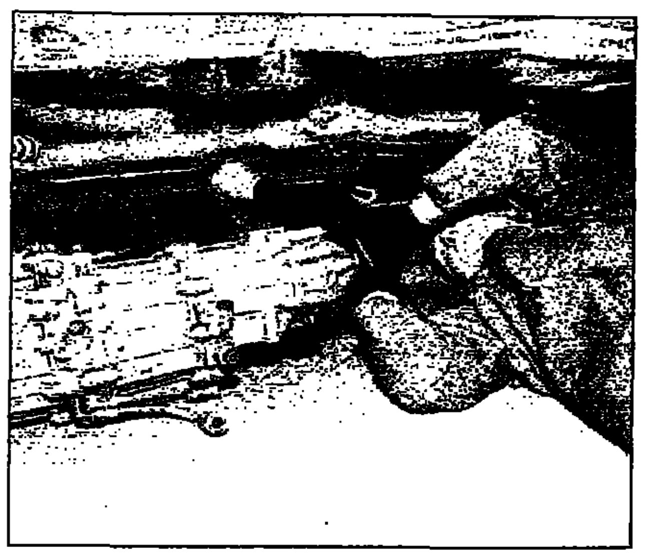
Wilson prepares his own cars in workshops converted from stables outside his beautiful home near Carlisle. Two mechanics work painstakingly over more than two months assembling individual components into the finished car that Wilson will drive, using data from the testing in which Wilson refines the choice of tyre and suspension that will best suit him over conditions that could vary over the next week from glorious warm sunshine and hard gravel tracks to snow and thick, unyielding mud.

Then the Ford Motorsport team trails the cars around the circuit, six mechanics to a truck for each car, loaded with everything from generators to enough spare parts to make two complete Escorts. Every component is in the same place, the same drawer, on the same hook in each truck so that no mechanic has to search for a vital bit when time is precious.

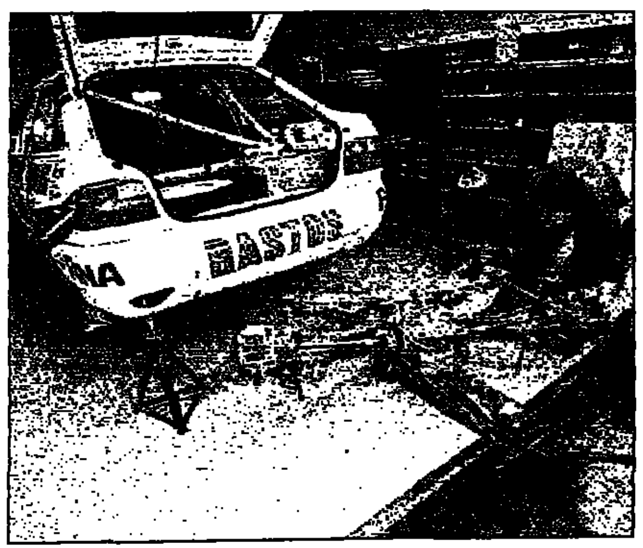
"We have to be ready for everything, so we try to test over as many different kinds of stage as we can," Wilson told me over a meal of pasta and fizzy water. Preparing body and mind is as important as looking after the car, so Wilson has been working out for the past two months with a personal fitness trainer to stand up to a buffeting that would knock the wind out of a boxer — and it goes on almost non-stop for four days.

Wilson is 39, looks 25, and is built like a jockey at 5ft 7ins and 11 stone. He might be calm and quietly spoken, but the steel in his soul soon becomes apparent at the wheel. Watch that Escort move next week.


Component parts: the Cosworth's engine is removed . . .


. . . to be followed by the six-speed gear box . . .

. . . before mechanic Peter Holt goes underneath . . .


. . . and the rear axle is extracted, leading to . . .

. . . the final, stripped-down car ready to be checked

Cosworth complete: with mechanics Buzz Barnes, Peter Holt and Malcolm Farren

Fast workers: Malcolm Wilson and Alister McRae

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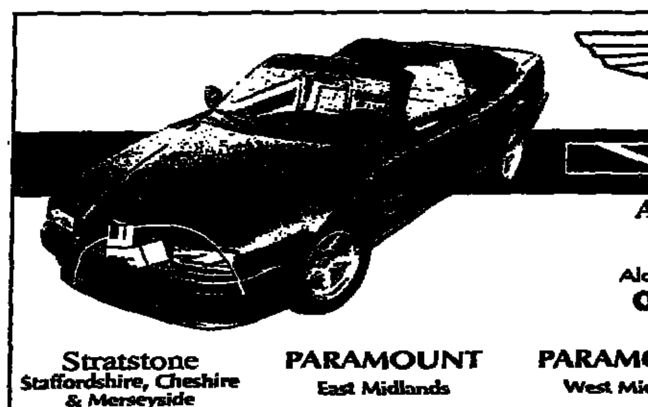

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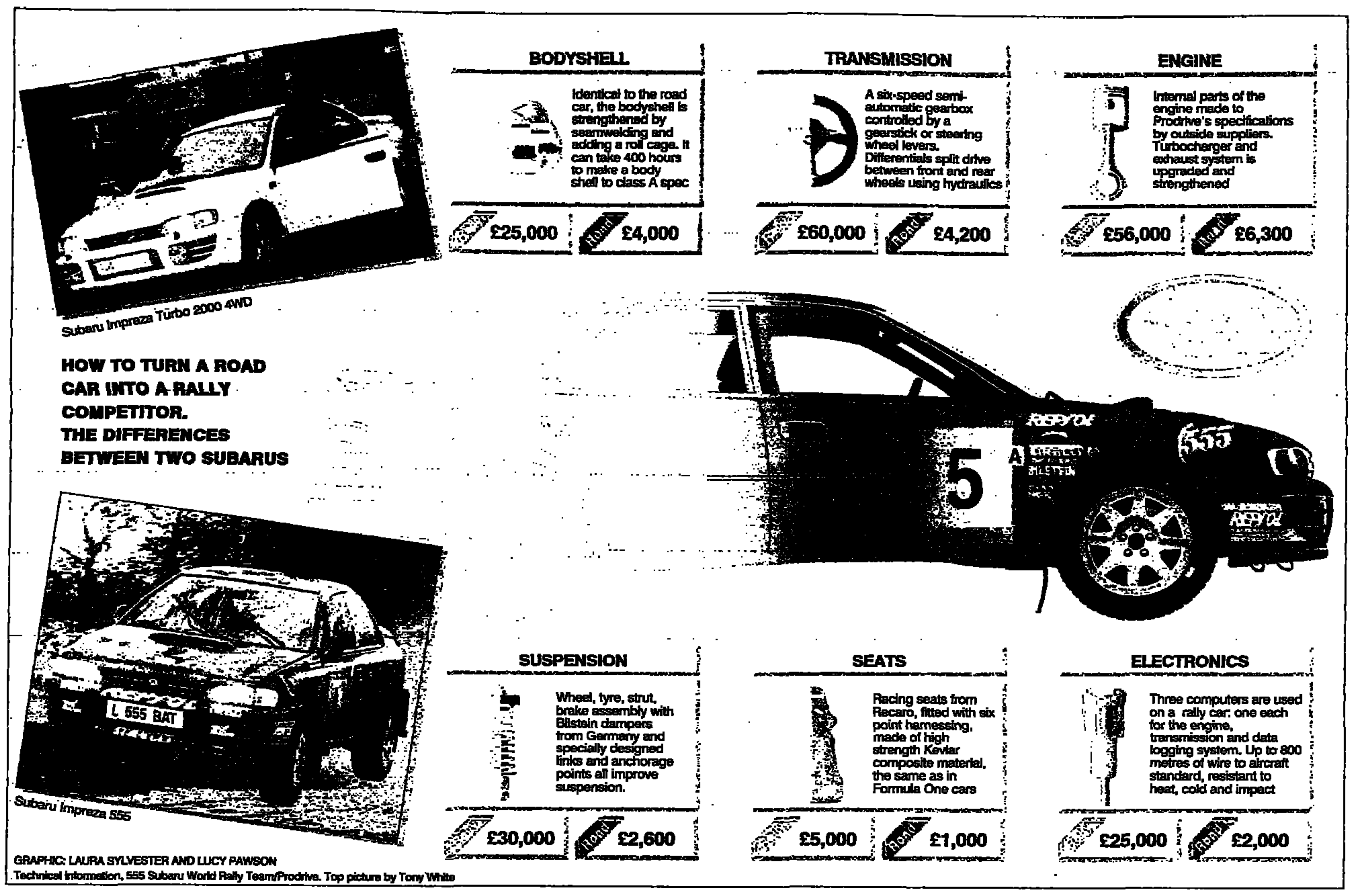
Laura Sylvester and **Lucy Pawson** enter an alien world in the Subaru Impreza driven by Colin McRae

Encounter with the beast beneath the bonnet


Subaru Impreza Turbo 2000 4WD

HOW TO TURN A ROAD CAR INTO A RALLY COMPETITOR. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO SUBARUS

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Subaru Impreza 555

GRAPHIC: LAURA SYLVESTER AND LUCY PAWSON
Technical information, 555 Subaru World Rally Team/Prodrive. Top picture by Tony White

The differences between Colin McRae's Subaru Impreza and the one in your local showroom are not just the obvious 100 extra brake horse power and £182,000 cost. Turning a road-going car into a rally machine bred to bounce over forest tracks, slew through loose gravel and tear along tarmac at speeds that would shake the fillings from the teeth of mere mortals is a job for experts.

Take one Subaru and give it to Prodrive, the race company at Banbury in Oxfordshire, and the machine McRae will be steering tomorrow morning in the first leg of the RAC Rally is a different beast to the car the Japanese manufacturer tries to sell.

The bodywork looks the same — but there the similarities end. For McRae climbs into a cabin which is bare but for his figure-hugging race seat bolted to steel runners, a steering wheel, three pedals, the handbrake and a stick shift. He needs no speedometer because his driving comes from touch and feel, knowing when the car is revving too high or when the speed is reaching terminal velocity during the forest stages.

It is a world alien to ordinary motorists as we found out, trying to compare the road-going Subaru Impreza Turbo 2000, which provides the base for McRae's spitting, popping rally car. Subaru offered us the chance to try the £18,000 road car and then a trip in McRae's version to discover the differences — and there were plenty.

The road-going Impreza is well behaved in heavy traffic, even though there is 200 brake horse power on tap. A press of the throttle, however, and the turbo-charger boosts acceleration so that the car fires from rest as though it had rocket power. Manufacturer's figures show a 0-60mph figure of 6.6 seconds, easily quick enough for even the most ambitious road-going motorist.

The suspension is stiff, so the ride is hard compared with regular hatchbacks and saloons, and the sports seats hug the shoulders and rib cage tight, just in case any driver feels outrageous enough to test the Impreza's undoubted cornering capabilities.

The cabin is welcoming, but the Impreza is still a Japanese compact. Nothing special to look at, although definitely a wolf in sheep's clothing for motorists who want Ferrari-like performance at Mondeo-like prices.

> McRae's car feels as if it could resist a nuclear explosion

But it wouldn't matter how good the road car was: one outing in McRae's car seemed like comparing a Tornado jet with a Tiger Moth. McRae worries little about welcoming cabins. His Impreza 555 might look like the sort of car you could tootle along to Sainsbury's in, but one glimpse of an interior stripped of any linings gives the game away.

The road car's bodyshell is a £4,000 wimp next to the £25,000 spent on strengthening McRae's Subaru with a special steel roll cage. Without any sound baffling, door pockets, or even the semblance of a recognisable dashboard, the noise is astonishing: a high-pitched scream as the engine revs to its limit. Heat radiates from the unprotected floorpan and the high-strength Kevlar composite seats and six-point belts grip the body so tightly, it was like being squeezed by Frankenstein's monster.

McRae was not confronted by a comforting stereo, heater controls and rear screen demister button as we were on the road test, but a panoply of aircraft-style buttons and fuses. One push on the starter and the same 2-litre engine might have been fired in theory, but Prodrive, now the world's most successful producer of rally cars, has injected extra power for 300bhp from a power pack and turbo-charger that costs £56,000 in rally form compared with less than £6,300 for the road version.

Riding in the road car might have seemed board hard; in the rally car, the suspension knocked the air out of our windpipes. The road car's wheels, tyres, suspension struts and brakes system costs enough at £2,600 and is among the most sophisticated available, but McRae's car starts with £30,000 worth of gear that feels as though it could resist a nuclear explosion at each wheel.

And we only had five forward gears to play with in conventional H-formation, and a clutch so heavy that, in heavy traffic, it was like squeezing lead piping. McRae's car has six gears — in sequential form so he pushes forward to change up and back to change down — and a semi-automatic clutch so he can change gear in the blink of an eye, foot still hard down on the throttle, without having to worry about hitting the clutch as a fencepost looms towards the bonnet.

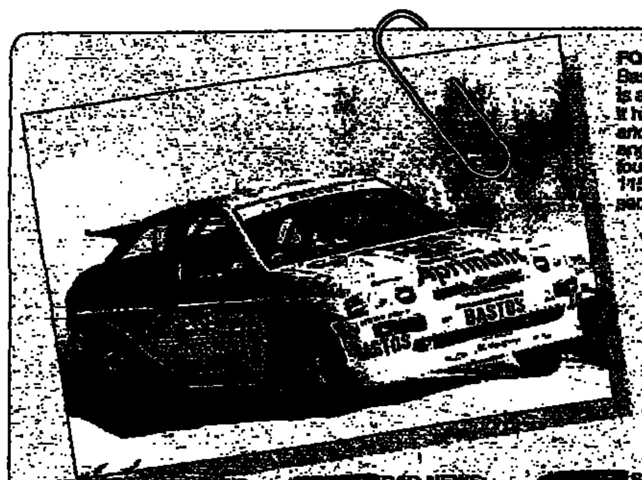
Prodrive had no performance figures for the Impreza 555, but they are probably irrelevant. McRae will not be looking to impress passing shoppers tomorrow when he sets out on the first stages; he will want as much power through the four-wheel-drive system and on to the gravel as Prodrive can muster for him. That much was obvious as the Impreza 555 hurtled around a track prepared by the Prodrive team to prove why they are currently the best in the rallying business.

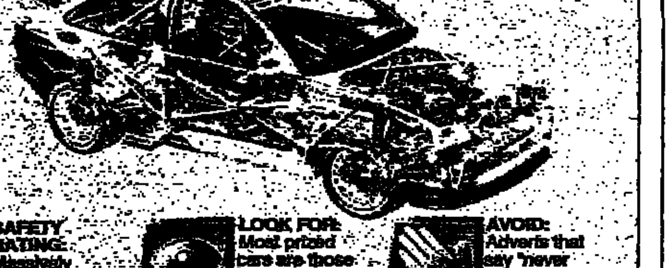
As we set out along the M40 from Banbury to find our way home, the noise of the Impreza 555 was still ringing in our ears. So we settled back at a comfortable 70mph, switched on the heater … and turned up the stereo.

BRYN WILLIAMS

Laura Sylvester, left, and Lucy Pawson: "it seemed like comparing a Tornado jet with a Tiger Moth"

USED CAR BRIEF





FORD ESCORT RS COSWORTH

Based on the 140mph street-going RS Cosworth, the Group A rallying version is a blue-blooded motorsport beast. Test work started in 1991, and since then it has taken hatfuls of prestigious titles including the Monte Carlo, Acropolis and Portuguese rallies. The four-cylinder, 16-valve, two-litre, turbocharged engine is tuned to deliver 300bhp through a seven-speed gearbox and four-wheel-drive. The RAC cars are geared to a maximum top speed of just 115mph, but the benefit is storming 0-60mph acceleration in under five seconds.

GOOD NEWS: Fantastically fast and very strong, the rallying "Cossie" is a proven winner at the very highest levels. Not exactly ideal for the DIY enthusiast but even so plenty of parts and advice are available for buyers of used models. Just two hideously uncomfortable seats and zero luggage space make it useless for shopping but ideal for would-be Colin McRaes.

BAD NEWS: While the rally car doesn't need special "brews" like Grand Prix machines and is quite happy on Super Unleaded, it swallows petrol at the rate of three miles to the gallon. With bodywork stripped of sealing materials to save weight, dust and water get in everywhere, and cars will rust quickly as bodyshells are not rust-proofed. Noise from stones against bare metal floor is a real headache.

SAFETY RATING: Massively strong; these cars regularly get rolled and somersaulted, crashed into trees and flown off cliffs, only for driver and navigator to get out unhappy but unharmed. £10,000 worth of time and metalwork goes into strengthening the body and fitting the comprehensive roll-cage.

LOOK FOR: Most prized cars are those which have been driven by factory works teams, which is a guarantee that they have been properly prepared, have all the right legally acceptable bits, and have been correctly maintained. In the last three years around 25 factory cars have been built as well as a number of privately put-together competition cars. Highly sought after by club and privateer rallyers.

AVOID: Adverts that say "never raced or rallied". While cars used for club events might last three years (bodywork will be replaced many times in that period), cars raced at RAC Rally level might only survive three such gruelling events in top competitive form before being demoted to become test cars

INSURANCE: This is the painful bit. The bodyshell is usually insured for up to £25,000 and the whole car for total fire loss up to a value of £150,000, but premiums will be £3,000-£5,000 per day in competition...

PRICES: "Ordinary" Escort RS Cosworth costs £26,000 out of the showroom, but the rallying version might cost anything up to £150,000 new. Secondhand, the rally car holds its value well and cars sell from £80,000 to £120,000. Cars with a successful rallying campaign history fetch more.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: Seven-speed gearbox plus bits will set you back £20,000; carbon metallic brake pads are £300 a set and brakes £1,000 a wheel; lightweight manganese wheels £300 each; up to £750 for lighter forged manganese wheels; tyres £150 each.

OVERALL: Malcolm Wilson Motorsport, prepares Cosworths. He says: "The Escort must be the best value for any club driver looking for a competitive used car. Selling again, it will fetch a good price, and spare competition parts are easy to come by."

In the race tracks of history

WHILE Colin McRae is trying to seal the World Championship in his Subaru, his father, Jimmy, a five-times British Rally champion, will be following part of the route over the weekend and driving many of the same special stages on Sunday.

McRae senior, driving a Porsche 911, is one of 54 entrants in the Millers Oils RAC Historic Rally, itself part of a European Championship and rather more than a mere supporting event for the Network Q RAC Rally. The cars, and, generally speaking, the drivers may be older but there will certainly be no lack of competitiveness.

In last year's historic event, the Swede Ake Andersson in his Porsche snatched victory from Jim McRae on the final stage, so McRae senior will be out for revenge while the Swede will be seeking some compensation for what has been a miserable 1995 season.

There is a tremendous nostalgic element to the field behind the 14 Porsches that are likely to dominate on the special stages. Runners include the very fast Triumph TR4 of Stephen Hall, a TR3, a brace of Austin-Healey 3000s, a gaggle of Mini Coopers — which could provide a real challenge if it gets wet — a gang of Lotus Cortinas, a lone Jaguar Mk 2 and even a Sunbeam Rapier.

The Historic Rally starts and finishes from The Headrow, Leeds, on both days, and on Sunday it precedes the RAC field on all except the first special stage. On Saturday only the international historic field is joined by the National Rally Britannia and the Classic Rally Britannia.

Entering for the love of it

For Alyson and Innes Marlow, simply taking part in the Rally will be victory enough

Innes and Alyson Marlow: "this time we would like to finish in the top 50"

The phone crashes down and pint-sized Alyson Marlow leaps up and lets rip a triumphant whoop. "Yes! We've got ourselves a motorhome," Kate Laven writes.

She is referring to herself, her husband, Innes, and 14 dedicated helpers. The motorhome is a godsend because it means they all have somewhere to eat and relax over the next few days as the amateur husband and wife team from Fareham in Hampshire take on the great and the good in the Network Q RAC rally.

For the 555 Subaru World rally team, the deal is three world championship drivers, a stream of perfectly-tuned high performance cars and an annual budget of £15 million.

For Marlow Rallysport, formed four years ago when the newlyweds decided they wanted a "hobby" they could enjoy together, there is a five-year-old Ford Sierra Cosworth, two modest salaries (they are both journalists; co-driver Alyson on words and Innes in the saddle on pictures) and a firm commitment to the philosophy that if you don't ask, you don't get.

"When we first turned up at Southsea Motor Club asking how to get started, they all looked at us as if we were mad," says Alyson, whose frenetic pre-rally preparation has involved shopping for provisions and blagging accommodation, motorhome, service van, chase car and other paraphernalia.

Their first proper car was a £2,000 Ford Escort, and their first event was in 1992 at Avon Park near Bournemouth, in which they came a creditable 45th out of more than 90 contenders. Nine events later, they lined up alongside the big guns at the start of the 1994 RAC rally, proudly displaying the number 123 on their recently acquired £18,000 Sierra Cosworth.

They were the first members from Southsea to compete in the RAC since 1976, and at that stage could see no further than the finishing line, having spent £25,000 of their own money on getting there. But get there they did. In fact they came 81st, better than Malcolm Wilson and Carlos Sainz and other worthy contenders.

A few weeks later, a new and more rampant strain of rally fever returned to the Marlow household, forcing Alyson to put any ideas of a new kitchen on the back burner. A 12-month strategy was drawn up featuring a handful of events, and letters seeking sponsorship were dispatched in an attempt to lighten the financial burden.

"We didn't go after any sponsorship until we felt we had something to offer," she says. "We sent out about 20 letters and secured three sponsors."

Support has grown, with Ordnance Survey, the Southampton-based map makers who were already involved with the RAC Rally, making a sizeable commitment.

Despite the help from sponsors, the Marlows are still funding a major part of the £35,000 campaign. Alyson says: "We know what we are doing this time, but there is still so much to do, like making sure everyone knows where they should be and when, getting all the food, tyres and fuel organised."

Their pet rabbit, Mark Two Cosworth Damen Newman-Haas, (full hutch name, Wozzie for short), will need surrogate parents, and their crew — a volunteer team of friends, family and supporters — needs marshalling, a task expertly undertaken by Alyson, known fondly as Bulldog.

"We could never do this without our team who all work and are taking time off to help us. If we don't do well, we feel disappointed for them more than anything.

"This time we would like to finish in the top 50, but whatever happens we will get a buzz from competing alongside the world champions. We will never beat them, but it is very exhilarating just being in the same contest."

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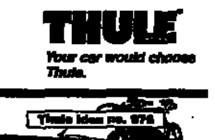

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325TDS SE Auto. Mauritius Blue. Air con. VOC. 45K FBMWSH. L-reg. £16,950. Telephone: 01844 208023.

325 TDS SE 95 M reg. 14,000 miles. Boston Green. A/C. half Leather. sport seats. £19,500. Tel: 0370 476296 or 0181 979 6206 (Between 6 and 9pm)

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M3 Conv. 1995M. Daytona violet /silver lthr. large wheels. cd. £37,995. 0181 983 4444.

840 CI
March 1995. auto. Maldives Blue, 7,000 miles, all usual extras, M tech wheels & suspension.
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325 TDS SE white, auto. 94(L). 19.5k mls, S/S, R/alarm, R/C. FBMWSH £18,750. 01904 707943(H) 01937 587563(W)

328i Sport Coupe. 95 N. auto. a/con. 1,900 miles, met green. black lthr. alarm. r/spoiler. £29,760. 01689 852407.

520i SE Touring Est 92(J) twin roof, X spoke alloys, remote alm. SH, E/W, 100,000 mls hence £8,995. 01563 675416

520i 1993, auto, 1 owner. Jet Black, elec windows/sun-roof, stereo etc. £12,950 Tel: 0181 422 4070(H) 0181 422 6814(O)

525iSE 24V K reg. Burgundy Red/Grey interior. FBMWSH + Warranty, CD player. 75K mls. Best offer over £10,800 secures. 01243 575399

525iSE 24V 91J Alpine White, Manual. 32K FBMWSH, Alarm My car from new, Immaculate. £10,950. Tel: 0171 226 6089.

525i (24v) sport, '91 (J). alpine white. high spec. 67k miles. FBMWSH. (non smoker). £11,950. 01288 860533.

535i SE Auto 90 (PP Avibil Lachs silver grey velour. ESR. ABS. Alloys. FBMWSH. warranty. 91k mls Prestine £9,995 Tel: 01482 811830

730i SE auto. '92 J. leather. air con. Alpine white. black lthr. full spec. alloys. FBMWSH. £13,495. 01262 317481.

740i M reg. New Shape. Silver Art. Black Lthr Int. Special BMW wheels. 6K brand new £39,900 Tel:0171 371 3603

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740i Auto. 95 M. Sorrento blue. grey full leather. high spec incl Motorola battery flip phone. 16,000 miles. Excellent condition. £37,950. 01438 833438 or 01438 833432 (Ans Ph)

740iA '93 K Reg. One owner. 68,000 mls. FBMWSH. White/blue leather. High spec. PDC. Excellent condition £18,500. 01256 896906.

840 CiA 94(L) Orient lt silver. A/C. Cd. ESR. HW. ESR. FBMWSH. auto dim etc. Excellent cond. 1 owner. 13,500 mls. £41,995. Tel: 0181 964 9369

850i auto, 1991. Calypso red/grey hide. 45,000 miles. fully documented BMW service hist. full spec incl sports/comfort. air con. outstanding cond. £31,950 01705 592501(O) 01705 214982(H)

850i auto 92 (J) Sterling / black Hide. ASC. CDC. S/Seats. 16k. £39,995. Hexagon 0181 348 5151.

M3 Conv. factory, hard top. Mar 95. 9,000 miles. Avus blue. blue hood. black leather int. many extras. Private sale. £37,850. Tel: 0385 320398.

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M3 COUPE 94M Daytona violet. Lthr Int. Special alloys & spoilers. Cd. ESR Extras 10k. FSH £31,250.Tel: 01606 330341

M5 '94 (L) Lagoon. Full Nurburgring Pack. Rear spoiler. 6 stack CD. FBMWSH. Immac. 0141 334 6666 (week days)

840 CI
Auto 95 M, 4,000 miles only. Orient Blue Metallic / silver leather. Factory fitted 850 CSI body kit with rear spoiler. sports suspension. split rim alloys. CD. climate control. 1 owner, FSH. Part X available. finance arranged.
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M3 Convertible. Avus blue/black leather. air con. 94 M. unmarked. 11,000 miles £34,950 Tel: 01628 778320 or 0385 940488 Private sale.

M3 93(L). Dakar. leather. A/C. ESR. large wheels. cruise. R.spoiler. RHR. Cd. airbag. 27K miles. FSH. £27,950. Tel: 0181 668 0312(O) 01737 830871(H)

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94L 530i SE Fjord, 15k	£16,995
95M 518i SE Arctic, 7k	£16,995
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94L 318i Lux A Mauritius, 9k	£15,995
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94L M3 Lthr, A/C, Avus, 23k	£31,995
94L M3 Lthr, L/Alloys, Arctic, 16k	£29,995
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93L 325i A Lthr, Calypso, 34k	£18,995
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92K 320i Black, 29k	£14,995
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93K 318i A Black, ABS, 41k	£12,995
94M 318i SE Calypso, 15k	£16,995
94M 318i ESR, Alpine, 10k	£15,995
93L 318i SE Arctic, 18k	£15,995
93L 318i SE Red, 21k	£13,995
93L 318i (M43) Mauritius, 35k	£13,995
94M 316i ESR, Dark Blue, 6k	£14,995
93L 316i A Black, 19k	£13,995
93L 316i ESR, Alpine, 25k	£12,995
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95 328i Auto Coupe Boston/Anthracite, A/C, Huge Spec, 6k £28,995
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M 525i SE Auto Calypso. 9,700 m £23,995
H 535i Sport Red/Silver cloth ASC [illegible]

7 Series
K 740i Auto Alpine/Anth OBC LRM £22,995
M 730i Auto Sorento Blue. 8,000 m Ex-demo £34,995
M 740i Mojave/Sand lthr. AC Comfi sts Ping dist cont Elec steer colmn ASC + T 20" Alpina alloys 1 own 9,700 m. Call for spec £38,995

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94L 525 TD A	Calypso, Silver Grey, ESR, RHR, Fog Lights, FCA, Stereo	19T	£18,995
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3 SERIES SALOONS
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93L 525i SE Tour Fjord Grey/Parch	33T	£19,995
94L 525 A TDS SE Orient Blue/Silver	45T	£17,995
95M 520i SE 24V Oxford Green/Anth	2T	£20,995
93K 525i SE Tour Jet Black/Silver Grey	23T	£16,995
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89F M6 3.5 Highline Diamond Black	27T	£22,995
89G M6 3.5 24V Diamond/Pearl Beige Hide	15T	£20,995
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95M 740i Auto V8 Arctic Silver/Silver Hide	4T	£42,995
95M 730i Auto V8 Arctic Silver/Black Hide	2T	P.O.A.
92K 730i Auto SE Granite Silver/Silver Hide	31T	£20,995
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94M 325iA Coupe Calypso Red, Elec SR, 16000 mls	[illegible]
94M 325TD A Dark Blue, Elec SR, 17000 mls	[illegible]
93L 328i Coupe Lagoon Grn, ESR, X Spokes, 17000 mls	[illegible]
95M 328i Coupe Morea Green, Leather, ESR, 5000 mls	[illegible]
94L 325iA Conv Madeira Blk, Leather, 24000 mls	[illegible]
94L M3 Cosmos Blk, Leather, Rear Spoiler, 16000 mls	[illegible]
95M 518i SE Cosmos Blk, 4000 mls	[illegible]
92J 520iA Brilliant Red, Elec SR, 40000 mls	[illegible]
93L 520i SE Oxford Green, 13000 mls	[illegible]
93L 525iA SE Granite Silver, 15000 mls	[illegible]
94L 525iA SE Diamond Blk, 9000 mls	[illegible]
94M 525TDS A SE Orient Blue, 17000 mls	[illegible]
95M 525iA SE Calypso Red, 4000 mls	[illegible]
95M 525iA SE Touring, Orient Blue, 6000 mls	[illegible]
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AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON

A40 Western Avenue, Acton. Major roadworks have started between Hilary Road and the Northern Roundabout. Traffic is reduced to two lanes in each direction through a contraflow.

A406 North Circular Road, Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks continue in the vicinity of the Lea Valley viaduct.

A406 North Circular Road, Finchley. Major roadworks continue with various restrictions between the A1 and A1000 junctions.

A10 Great Cambridge Road, Enfield. Major roadworks between Lee Road and Bury Street, with traffic reduced to a single lane each way.

● SOUTH EAST

M4 Berkshire. Major roadworks and a contraflow between junctions 6 and 8/9 (Slough-Maidenhead).

M3 Surrey. Roadworks with lane closures in both directions between junctions 1 and 2 (Sunbury-M25).

A12 Essex. Roadworks and a contraflow on Stanway bypass between Colchester and Marks Tey. Regular London-bound delays.

A1(M) Hertfordshire 8.30pm-5am nightly. Southbound completely closed for resurfacing between junctions 7 and 6 (Stevenage-Welwyn).

● SOUTH WEST

M5 Gloucestershire. Roadworks and a contraflow between junctions 11 and 12 (Cheltenham-Gloucester).

M5 Somerset. Bridge repairs between junctions 21 and 22 with one lane closed each way.

M5 Devon. Major roadworks and contraflow at junction 27 (Tiverton).

A365 Wiltshire. Major roadworks on Western Way in Melksham with four sets of temporary traffic lights.

A30 Dorset. Kit Hill in Sherborne closed for resurfacing work.

● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

M6 West Midlands. Roadworks and contraflow between junctions 5 and 6 (A452-Spaghetti Junction).

M50 Hereford & Worcester. Roadworks with lane closures each way between junctions 1 and 2 (Tewkesbury-Ledbury).

M6 Staffordshire. One lane closed northbound for roadworks north of junction 14.

M1 Leicestershire. Roadworks and contraflow between junctions 21 and 22 (Leicester). *In addition:* Northbound completely closed between junctions 19 and 21 (M6-Leicester) from 8pm today until 9am tomorrow.

A1 Lincolnshire. Roadworks and contraflow between Stamford and Grantham.

A11 Cambridgeshire. Work on new dual carriageway continues, with restrictions between Stump Cross and Worsted Lodge.

● NORTH

M1 West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at the end of motorway at junction 47 (Leeds).

A1 North Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow at Walshford.

M6 Cheshire. Widening work continues over the Thelwall viaduct, with contraflow between junctions 20 and 22 (Lymm-Winwick).

M62 Cheshire. Traffic reduced to a single lane each way at junction 10 (Croft Interchange) because of roadworks.

M6 Greater Manchester. Roadworks and lane closures between junctions 24 and 26 (Ashton-Orrell).

● WALES

A449/A40 Gwent. Roadworks continue between Newport and Monmouth, with much of the route reduced to a single lane.

A465 West Glamorgan. Roadworks and contraflow at the Glynneath interchange.

A547 Gwynedd. Bridge repairs with temporary traffic lights near A55 junction.

A548 Clwyd. Roadworks and contraflow between Oakenholt and Kelsterton.

● SCOTLAND

A77 Glasgow. Major roadworks in Eglinton Street and Pollokshaws Road.

A749 Glasgow. Dalmarnock Bridge closed southbound.

A768 Edinburgh. Lasswade Bridge closed for repairs causing heavy congestion in south and west of the city.

M80 Central Region. Roadworks and contraflow at junction 5 (Bankhead).

M90 Fife. Roadworks and contraflow between junctions 1 and 2 (Admiralty-Masterton).

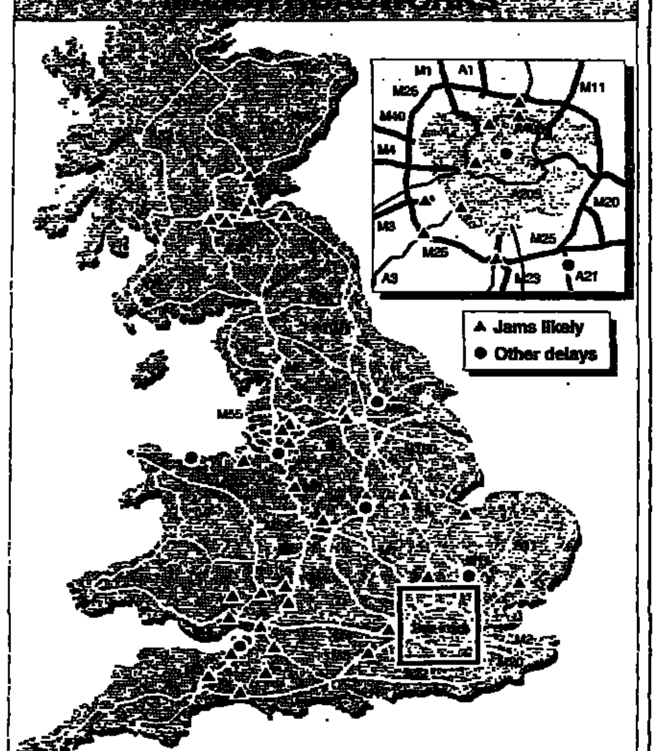
M90 Tayside. Major roadworks continue at junction 10 (Friarton Bridge) with lane closures in both directions.

● NORTHERN IRELAND

A1 County Down. Work on Newry bypass continues, with restrictions on the Dublin Road at the Forkhill Road junction.

County Tyrone Roadworks on Omagh bypass at junction with Derry Road.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



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Nissan Primera 2.0SGX 5dr	10150	10000	-1.47
Honda Accord 2.0iLS 4dr	12695	12495	-1.57
Mazda 626 1.8GLX 5dr	10150	10000	-0.98
Volvo 480 2.0ES 3dr	11895	11295	-5.04
Vauxhall Cavalier 2.0 SRi 16V 5dr	10695	10295	-3.74
Ford Mondeo 2.0Si 4dr	10550	10100	-4.26
Renault Clio 16v 3dr	10650	10295	-3.33
Citroën Xantia 2.0 VSX 5dr	10995	10695	-2.72
Chrysler Jeep Wrangler 4.0	12850	12395	-3.54
Subaru Legacy 2.0GL estate	11895	11550	-2.90
Saab 900 2.0iS 5dr	14850	14295	-3.73
Renault Espace 2.0RN 5dr	14850	14250	-4.04
Peugeot 405 1.9GRD estate	11695	11295	-3.42
Nissan 200SX	13795	13495	-2.17
Toyota Carina E Executive	12250	11595	-5.34
Suzuki Vitara JLX SE 3dr	10695	10495	-1.87
Mitsubishi Galant 1.8 GLSi 4dr	12795	12250	-4.25
Hyundai Sonata 2.0GLX 4dr	10295	10095	-2.13
Ford Granada 2.0 Ghia 4dr auto	13295	12795	-3.76
Audi 80 1.6 4dr	11695	11395	-2.56
Volvo 940 2.0 Wentworth	14750	14495	-1.72
Vauxhall Cavalier V6 Diplomat	12895	12450	-3.45
Rover 620Si 4dr	12095	12095	0.00
Renault Safrane 2.0RN 5dr	12295	12095	-1.62
Peugeot 605SLi 7-seater	12250	11850	-3.26
Nissan Serena 2.0SLX	13295	12850	-3.34
Audi 80 2.0E	13295	12950	-2.59
Citroën ZX 2.0 16v 3dr	10450	10095	-3.39
Daihatsu Sportrak ELXi 3dr	11195	10950	-2.18
Ford Escort RS2000	11695	11295	-3.42
Honda Civic ESi 3dr	10195	10050	-1.42
Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6i GLXi 5dr	12095	11795	-2.48
Peugeot 306 XSi 5dr	10995	10595	-3.63
Toyota Corolla 1.6 Executive 5dr	11650	11095	-4.76
Vauxhall Astra 2.0i convertible	11295	11095	-1.77
Volkswagen Passat 2.0GL 4dr	11950	11450	-4.18
Mazda 323 1.8iGT (with ABS)	11495	11095	-3.47
Renault 19 16v	10595	10395	-1.88
Subaru Impreza 1.8GL estate	10950	10450	-4.56
Vauxhall Calibra 16v	14095	13650	-3.15
Vauxhall Omega 2.0 16v CD	14895	14495	-2.68
Citroën XM 2.0i VSX Turbo estate	14995	14295	-4.66
Daihatsu Fourtrak TDL Independent	13395	13595	-2.58
Ford Escort 1.8 Ghia TD estate	10250	10050	-1.95
Honda Accord 2.0i LS coupé	13850	13495	-2.56
Audi 100 2.0E	14095	13850	-1.73
Mazda Xedos 6 1.6i	13295	12750	-4.09
Mitsubishi V6 24v coupé	15195	14395	-5.26
Rover 216 Cabriolet	12295	11750	-4.43

*Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices. HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on M-reg. low mileage cars Figures supplied by **CAP Motor Research**.*

Men are better drivers than women ... let me qualify that outrageous statement by asking you a question

Is it really some kind of sex test?

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

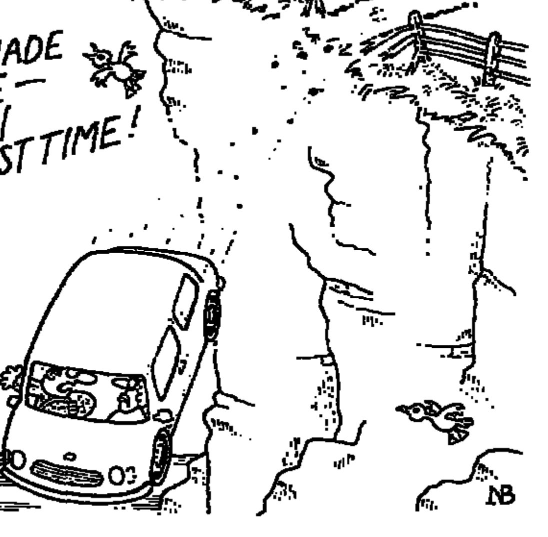
The notion that men are better drivers than women is, of course, ludicrous: men are more than twice as likely to be involved in an accident and commit 10 times more motoring offences than women. So enlightened men (women readers may think that phrase is a contradiction in terms) can safely continue ridiculing the bigots in their midst.

Except for one thing. A statistic from the Department of Transport this week shows that last year, 53 per cent of male learners passed the driving test first time, compared with 43 per cent of women. Women drivers! I ask you.

Indeed I do ask you, for I want to know why this gap exists. Experts are apparently baffled — I am certainly baffled — but you may have a blindingly obvious solution. All I can offer are a few clues.

For instance, observation suggests that, on the whole, women are more nervous behind the wheel than men. You may consider the word nervous pejorative, so I will settle for cautious. Whichever, given that a test is the most nerve-wracking drive any of us ever undertakes, this may help explain the pass differential.

Then there is another statistic: more than 85 per cent of examiners are male. I think men are never more concerned to be on top form behind the wheel than when giving a lift to another man. Conversely, when women are driving a man they tend to feel they are being tested, even if the man (perhaps especially if the man) is their husband.


O.K., SO I MADE A MISTAKE — AT LEAST I PASSED FIRST TIME!
NB

There is also the fact that more women than men take the test each year. Arithmeticians would argue that this cannot affect the pass rate, but anecdotally one might think that more tests must inevitably equal more failures.

None of which is very convincing, but there must be an explanation. This is an important matter, for it is odd that women drivers seem to be failing more often at the first hurdle yet they out-perform men at jumping all the subsequent ones. I look forward to your usual insights into this matter.

I SHALL have to start campaigning soon for a joint initiative between the Department of Transport and the Department of Health under which the people in charge of traffic management in this country are offered brain transplants on the National Health.

One of those advanced driving types told me recently that if you drive through a built up area at exactly 30mph, and the first traffic light you come to is just changing to green, all the others along that stretch will also be at green when you reach them.

Ho, ho, ho. This may work if the lights are properly synchronised, but most of them are not. Most of them get out of sync and stay out of sync for weeks, nay months, on end. Absolutely infuriating.

IN THE run-up to Christmas, I shall be boring you rigid with a series of items on drink-driving. I make no apology, for this is the one Government motoring campaign of the past couple of decades which is working and which deserves unqualified support. All credit to Peter Bottomley, who started it.

This week the BBC repeated last year's special in the 999 series, perhaps the best programme on drink-driving that television has transmitted. The most salutary lesson in the programme was about the man killed one Sunday morning by a minibus driver whose blood-alcohol level was twice the legal limit more than nine hours after he last had a drink.

We should all think about that the next time we have a heavy Saturday night and set off to drive to church or the golf course the following morning.

JOHN POTTER/NEWSTEAM

Suppliers of seating arrangements to stylish drivers and overweight farmers: Louise, Geoff, Angela and Mark, with dogs Oliver and Teddy

A family that is always sitting down on the job

Bored with your old car seats? **Helen Mound** knows just the people who you should talk to

The family seat has a different meaning for the Dunsfords: if you can sit on it in your car, they might have made it.

The family business — Cobra, based in Telford, Shropshire — is Britain's biggest supplier of replacement car seats, which come after stereos and security systems as equipment motorists use most to turn factory-built cars into something that portrays their own tastes more clearly. And they are prepared to spend between £50 and £500 on something different to sit on from the Cobra range.

"We don't have a typical customer," says Mark Dunsford. "They vary from boy racers, professional racers, ladies who want something stylish, drivers who want to cheer up an old family car and fat farmers too heavy for traditional car seats."

Mark joined the family business — run by parents Geoff and Angela — seven years ago as financial manager, while his sister, Louise, who works as a quality control manager, joined two years before him.

Trimming car interiors is something of a tradition: Geoff Dunsford's father was head trimmer on the AC Cobra production line when the company was in Thames Ditton, Surrey. Geoff started as an apprentice, working under his father. After AC Cars, he worked for a steering wheel manufacturer, but soon decided he should produce his own car seats. In 1976, he launched Camberley Trimmings, working from a lock-up in Camberley, Surrey, and his first order was for 100 seats for a chain of motor accessory stores — immediately.

Angela Dunsford remembers the panic. "It was such a big one, we all had to pitch in to complete it. In the end, we were working seven days a week, 12 hours a day, turning out seats."

The order was such a success, the Dunsfords moved to Telford to link up with the chain's own specialist wheel business. Since 1978, the family has multiplied sales five times and the company has gone from producing 10 car seats a day to 160; last year it sold more than 24,000.

The success of replacement car seats is as much about the demand for style as comfort, Mark Dunsford admits. "We set out to make a good looking seat first, then move on to comfort and practicality. Most customers are after something racy and stylish," he says. Occasionally he has to convince customers what they want. "Some people think they want a competition seat because they look good, but they don't realise they're not suitable for everyday driving."

Cobra makes three basic designs, although in 15 versions: recliners, built around metal frames with a range of foam supports and adjustments; bucket seats, which are cosseting, one-piece, race-inspired seats, and professional competition seats made from Kevlar and carbon fibre.

Unlike original seats fitted by carmakers in their factories, Cobra can make a seat to exact measurements with a personal choice of foam density, fabric, colour, and to finish it off, a monogram or logo embroidered on to the cover. That is the sort of bespoke motoring drivers increasingly want, so they can inscribe their personalities on even the most humble runabout.

Angela adds: "We advise on fabrics, colours, embroidery. We can trim the interior with the back seats to match and it's all made to measure."

Making equipment for thousands of motorists' bottoms might seem basic, but for the Dunsfords it is big business. Cobra is the third best-selling seat maker in Japan, where the market for fancy extras is enormous — and where the company has had to apply some ingenuity to some smaller Japanese frames. Cobra discovered that its seats needed to be narrower with a shorter base and sit lower on the frames ... simply so that Japanese drivers could reach the pedals.

Designing car seats is the complicated part of the process. Starting with a sketch, designers produce models to see if they are practical and comfortable, and it takes time to ensure what looks good also works well. Once a design is perfected, manufacturing the prototype could take just 20 minutes in the factory.

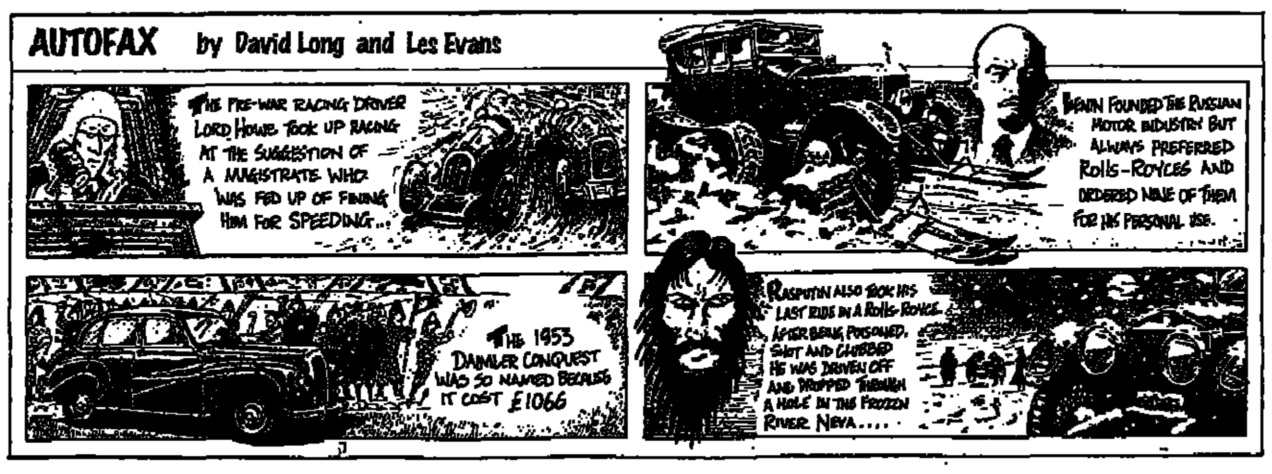
"We produce a metal frame or carbonfibre shell and fit it with moulded foam," says Mark. "The real skill is in the 'polying-up', which involves experienced trimmers fixing intricate bits of extra foam in fine detail to the seat before it's covered in fabric."

Before it can be manufactured, a completed seat design is attached to a test rig to gain European Community approval; for competition seats, Cobra needs approval from the Federation Internationale Automobiles, which governs the rules for world racing and rallying. With a crash-test dummy strapped aboard, a rig is fired into barriers to simulate front, rear, and side impacts. Only if the seat withstands all these poundings will it pass the test — an examination that could cost up to £10,000 for each new design.

"We discovered the value of gaining approval when Rover came to us looking for something to fit into the Mini Cabriolet," Mark explains. "They had run out of funds for development and tooling, and needed an EC-approved seat that would fit the little car, as their own were too wide. So now we supply the original equipment seats for the Cabriolet."

Success with the Mini taught the Dunsfords that they could be in at the start of a new era of supplying seats direct to the factory, as well as equipment to the "after-market" — the shops where motorists browse for extra bits and bobs to make their car distinctive.

AUTOFAX *by David Long and Les Evans*


THE PRE-WAR RACING DRIVER LORD HOWE TOOK UP RACING AT THE SUGGESTION OF A MAGISTRATE WHO WAS FED UP OF FINING HIM FOR SPEEDING...
LENIN FOUNDED THE RUSSIAN MOTOR INDUSTRY BUT ALWAYS PREFERRED ROLLS-ROYCES AND ORDERED NINE OF THEM FOR HIS PERSONAL USE.
THE 1953 DAIMLER CONQUEST WAS SO NAMED BECAUSE IT COST £1066
RASPUTIN ALSO TOOK HIS LAST RIDE IN A ROLLS-ROYCE. AFTER BEING POISONED, SHOT AND CLUBBED HE WAS DRIVEN OFF AND DROPPED THROUGH A HOLE IN THE FROZEN RIVER NEVA....

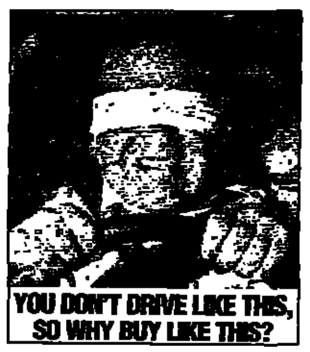
£10,000 safety belt to protect used car buyers

Tony Dawe on new guarantees

Two new schemes have been launched to protect the motorists who buy 4.5 million second-hand cars in Britain every year. HPI, the vehicle tracking agency, announced yesterday that it would guarantee compensation up to £10,000 to anyone who used its service but still found themselves landed with a stolen car or one subject to finance or leasing deals. The scheme follows the launch of a "do-it-yourself warranty" plan by Nationwide Used Car Arbitration (Nuca) of Dorset.

Tony Worthy, HPI's managing director, said that his company was "throwing down the gauntlet" to critics who have claimed that its service was flawed because it could not guarantee that the information it supplied about a car's history was accurate.

It was possible, he admitted, that some vehicles which were stolen, subject to finance deals or had been written-off after a crash could be missing from its registers by accident or design. The new scheme guarantees that anyone who gets an "all-clear" from the company and completes the purchase within three days but is subsequently forced to hand over the vehicle because it has been stolen or belonged to a finance company will be provided with a replacement.



HPI offers buyers protection against a financial crash

Under the new "warranty" scheme, private buyers and sellers will agree on the condition of the car, decide who is paying for the scheme and sign a contract stating that any dispute occurring after the sale and within the period covered by the warranty will be settled by arbitration, conducted free by the AA.

If something goes wrong with the vehicle within the first 21 days and the AA decides the seller knowingly misrepresented its condition, then the seller must pay the cost of repair or replacement. If it is decided that the seller is not responsible, or the three-week period has expired, Nuca will pay for repairs within the warranty period. The car is covered for up to £1,000 worth of repairs minus a £50 excess.

A six-month warranty scheme, which includes one year's AA membership and a free HPI check (normal price £28.50), costs £78.95.

A Lada off-roader? You can't be serious. But **Vaughan Freeman** finds the Hussar and Cossack are easy on the wallet and advance steadily on all fronts

Russians that don't surrender

VAUGHAN FREEMAN

When the going gets tough . . . the Hussar might lack flair, but is never intimidated by the steepest hill. It just puts its head down and ploughs on

What use is a poser off-roader? A Europe-wide survey by tyre makers Michelin last year found only one in ten of all four-wheel-drive vehicles spent more of its time ploughing through mud than it did pootling along on tarmac. while half never leave the road at all.

Yet drivers still flock to spend from £30,000 to £45,000 on a Range Rover. from £20,000 on a Land Rover Discovery. £16,000 on a Nissan Terrano II. £14,500 on a Vauxhall Frontera, or £13,000 on a Toyota Rav4.

Meanhwile. the third generation of Lada off-roaders, the standard Niva Hussar and the better equipped Cossack. cost from £8,000 to £10,000 on the road, are brutally rugged, more competent in mud and muck than pricier equivalents, and are just being launched in Britain.

For motorists on a really tight budget. but who still want to buy a brand new car — an especially important consideration with an off-roader since there is little way to know for sure what terrain a second-hand one has been thrashed over — Lada bridges the gap.

It is easy to knock a Lada — after all, everybody does — but start with what these cars can do well and a different story emerges. The difference between the Hussar and Cossack is, for the most part, cosmetic. Former Lotus designer Colin Spooner came up with the soft bull bars (which are increasingly found on off-roaders after criticism that the rigid variety lead to more serious injuries in the event of accidents), side sills, vents and scoops of the Cossack, as well as the jazzy interior.

Far more important than their differences is what the cars have in common. There are new, more supportive shaped seats that give improved access to the rear, the old carburettor 1.6-litre engine has been uprated into a 1.7 fuel injected unit which features General Motors (parent company of Vauxhall and the world's biggest car manufacturer) electronics, and the rear hatch tailgate is no longer split but opens down to bumper height for easier hay bale loading.

The car comes into its own in the mud

These are cars favoured by "real" off-roaders, not the type who engage four-wheel drive to cut across the grassy car park at the gymkhana or mount winches and hip flask for a weekend churning up the Ridgeway, but farmers and forestry workers who want a no-nonsense machine.

The Hussar and Cossack feel crude. The engines are whiney on the road, and without power steering the driver's shoulders and arms have to work hard. Little things like indicators that fail to self-cancel are an irritant, as is the roof lining in the Niva Hussar that looks like a massive skin-coloured breathable Elastoplast. On the plus side there is a heater system you could fry eggs on, a Serbia-proof warmer that was more than welcome during a test drive on the chilly North Yorkshire moors.

On tarmac the cars are good for in excess of 80mph, and at such speeds conversation is manageable without raising the voice, though steering is vague even when set dead ahead.

The car comes into its own in the muddy stuff, with high and low ratio gear selector, coupled to a differential lock which ensures all four wheels have grip and drive power in even the stickiest conditions. The result is a car that might do its job without flair, but is never intimidated by the steepest hill or incline, but puts its head down and ploughs on undaunted. The driver is much more likely to give up before the Niva Hussar does.

Lada imports here have a tough time in more ways than one. For many motorists the name is still more often heard on comedy shows than in a who-drives-what conversation in the office or the pub.

But, once smitten, it seems that devotees of the marque grow extra thick skins and stay loyal. So far this year, Lada has sold 7,540 cars in Britain, according to figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

The Lada might still be a joke to some, but strip away the automotive snobbery, and compare the A to B merits of either a brand new car with three-year warranty, or driving something four or five years old. and you have to ask whether the Lada joke is on Lada owners or on everybody else who pays more.

NIVA HUSSAR

Price: £7,595 on the road, Cossack £9,595.

Engine: 1.7-litre, four-cylinder, eight valves giving 79bhp at 5400rpm.

Gearbox: five-speed manual change.

Transmission: Off-road ability supplied by high/low ratio gear selector on transmission tunnel with differential lock.

Brakes: Front discs, rear drums.

Performance: Top speed 86mph, 0-60mph in 18seconds.

Economy: 26.6mpg urban cycle, 33mpg at constant 56mph.

Equipment: Cossack version includes front bull bars, alloy wheels, and a more luxurious interior with special cloth trim, radio casette player and additional soundproofing. Remote control central locking and a distinctive exterior paint job.

Laughing all the way to the bank

Despite its jokey reputation, Lada sells around 10,000 cars a year in Britain, its biggest export market in Western Europe. That's more than high-profile no-joke names such as Chrysler, Alfa Romeo or Subaru.

The Russian company has sold 300,000 cars here over the past 20 years. Why? Simple economics: the cheapest new Ford costs £7,000, the cheapest Vauxhall £7,200, even the cheapest Skoda, now that company is part of the VW empire, costs £6,200. A three-door Lada Samara can be had for £4,500, including three-year mechanical and six-year anti-perforation warranties.

David Bray, Lada's marketing director, says: "We are the only player between the used car and the new car markets. Our philosophy is to sell the best value-for-money product at the lowest price."

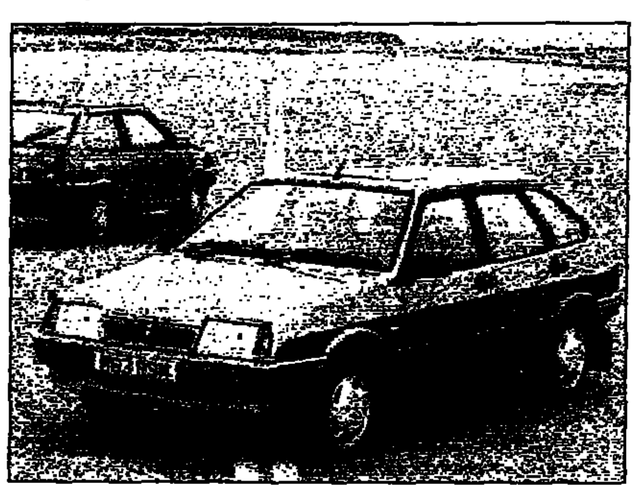
While in Russia there is a three-year waiting list for Ladas, UK customers can get one within days. The vehicles are imported from the "mother" plant at Togliatti via the Estonian port of Tallin. They then travel 2,000 miles by sea to Bridlington, Yorkshire and are transported by road to the Lada Import Centre at Carnaby, North Humberside.

The cars used to be exported from St Petersburg, but with the fall of communism came the rise of the Russian Mafia, says Carnaby plant operations director John Clarke: "So we switched to using Tallin as we had no wish to deal with the Mafia in Russia."

Up to 300 Ladas a week arrive at the Carnaby plant to be almost totally stripped, every item checked, engines modified, and, in many cases, entire interiors improved for upmarket models and sunroofs installed as required.

No new Lada model has been launched since 1987, so much of the time at the Carnaby plant is spent devising cosmetic improvements to keep the models looking fresh. Often a whole car must be resprayed to remedy a relatively minor blemish, otherwise a resprayed panel would show off the inferior quality of the original paintwork.

The cars that are then shipped to dealers are light years from the cars that arrive, though they still share the rough-and-ready mechanicals which, while far from sophisticated, do offer tough, reliable motoring engineered to withstand Soviet winters.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190E Auto, 89, black/ grey int FMBSH 6 month MB warranty, 4 EW/ ESR/ sports susp/ CL/ alarm/ alloys. exc cond. £8,495. 0181 507 1445 or 0973 220079

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190E Auto 92J Silver. 16K, £13,996. Hexagon 0181 348 5151.

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230TE Auto, 1990. Almondine red, 90k. FMBSH. 7 seats, CL, EW. ESR. CD. £10,950. May PX 190E. 01202 717932

320 CE 93 Blue blk alloys, music. S/R etc. 38,000m, fsh 1 own, £27,950. 01283 762762 TH

280E Auto. 93K. Grey Met, Pearl lthr. AC, ESR, rear heads. FSH £19,950. 01473 288922

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300SL 24v. J-reg. Pearl Blue. 13,000 miles. history. r/seat. CD. Ex-condition £43,500. 01708 340777/ 0831 520477.

300 TE Auto. 89F. Est. Air-con. elec orthopaedic seats. FSH. white. excellent cond 119k mls £12,500. 01276 685293

300SL 89 Blue/black. cream hide. 60k. FMBSH. alarm/ immob.Pvt sale. £19,000. 0181 458 7311/458 7864 Daniel

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500SEL 198?, met silver blue. air con. cruise. ABS. below avg mls. priv plate. fully maintained £10,750. 0191 487 9953 or 0860 201525

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C160 Elegance Auto 95 M Blue/Black metallic Grey cloth 6,700 mls RDS Radio/cass elec windows ABS ESR 1 owner. Immac. £20,750 Tel 01204 852171

500SEC 90 Astral silver/blue hide. a/c. 1 owner. 29,000 mls. fmbsh. £29,995 Wheelhouse 0115 970 5656

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560 SEL 1989. blueblack/cream lthr. 62,500 mls. FMBSH Elec rear seats alarm Immac. £15,500 01453 547587

C180 95 Elegance, 5spd. man silver. music etc 9k. 1 own. £19,980 01283 762762 TH

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E220 cabriolet 1995N Silver with leather a/c 3,000 miles extras £36,950 01255 20121 T

C250D Elegance Manual L 94 Silver blue/mushroom leather Immac 1 lady owner. £21,000 ono Tel 01206 211864

E 220
cabriolet M reg. Oct '94, rarely used. only 7,100 miles Almandine red cream/ mushroom leather. sportline suspension. Plus all usual extras. Totally as new
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C220D Esprit 94L red/ blk FMBSH. MB alarm. ESR/wtn. ABS. RDS rad/cass. 1 owner. 24k. £17,500. 01628 481713

C280 Sport 95(N) Silver/black leather ESR climate. E/seats. cons £37,500. 2,000 miles. £33,000. Tel. 01322 559005

C180 Classic auto. 94(L). Polar white. 33K miles. FMBSH. ESR, ESW, alm/immob. 6 spkrs CD £15,000 01734 477737

C250 Diesel Elegance auto. 95 (L). Bornite. Cream leather. S/R A/C. FMBSH. 46K. airbag. CD £20,995 Tel 01245 266482

E220 Auto 94(L) white. ABS. ESR. Radio/cass. airbag. all electrics etc. FMBSH. 35K mls. £18,000. Tel 01752 668756

E320 Cab 94L. Blue blk/ grey hide. a/c. cd+stack. factory alm. 1 onr. 18K. £42,995 Bramshaw 01202 396342.

E220 Coupe Auto 1994. all the spec. mileage 11633. £26,995 Contact Scothall BMW Leeds 0113 262 0641.

E320 Coupe M reg. Azurite/crm hide amg wheels. cruise cd. 18,000 mls. £38,995 Wheelhouse 0115 970 5656

E300 Diesel auto 95N. met blue. good spec. 5k. £26,750 01827 63616 or 0836 385111 T

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E320 1994 M reg. Nautic blue. sportsline suspension. cream leather. 1 owner FMBSH. 27,000 miles. Chauffer driven. £34,950 No offers Tel 0151 207 3751(W) or 0151 354 1654(H)

SL280 Azurite with Cream hide. May 95. 7,000 miles. RCS. HFS. 8 Hole alloys £51,950 px possible. Tel: 01663 764629

SL 320. 1994. all white black leather. climate. 10 stack CD. etc only 5,800 miles Superb. as new. £55,950 OVNO 01263 766363 or 0585 436880

SL320 Auto 1994M. Tourmaline green with mushroom hide. many extras. mileage. 6670. £55,995 Contact Scothall BMW Leeds 0113 262 0641

SL280 94 (L). blue/black cream leather. rear seats. 8 hole alloys. FSH. 21k mls. pristine cond. £45,500 0161 626 7688

SL280 Jan 94 Almandine red Cream leather 8 hole alloys. Rear seats Cruise. FMBSH. 29,000 miles. £43,500 Tel 01491 412630 (office) 01491 573286 (H) No canvassers

S320L N reg Blue with parchment hide. Piped in cream. Cruise. SRS. LSD ASR e/seats Roof/backblind Soft door close Pure air climate control 3k mls.£61,950 Tel 0121 711 4933 or 0385 286 235

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SL500 94M. White. Grey Lthr AC. RCS. 8AW. As new. 5k Excellent saving £63995 Lancaster 01604 239944

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944 S2 Coupe. 92(J) Cobalt Metallic Blue/Blue. 49K. FSH 1 owner. alarm/immob £18,500. Tel 01252 793120

CARRERA 2 convertible Burgundy metallic. immaculate condition. FSH. 1990 £31,000 ONO Tel: 0181 505 0940

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24 Valve, 1992, K reg, FMBSH, 12,000 miles, almandine, cream hide interior, rear seat, 8 hole alloys, drivers air bag, 5 speed auto, absolutely immac, looks & drives like new. £43,500
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April 1994, black/ grey leather. 14,000 miles. Climate control, 8 hole alloys, CD, immaculate condition.
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Auto. 1994(M). 46k miles. Full MB service history. Silver with black sports cloth. Recaro Seats. Air con. 17 inch OZ wheels and 4 new tyres. Discreet body styling. Traction control. Ski sack. CD. Remote alarm/ immobiliser. Immaculate and faultless car. Cost £40,000 accept £23,500.
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Coupe 93 L
(94 Model - new shape), Malachite / Cream leather. Sport Line, 5 speed auto, air con. 29,000 miles, FSH. Pristine condition.
£35,950
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Office hours.

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S280
March 1995
5 000 miles, Metallic Green, leather, sunroof, 8 hole alloys, good stereo + many other extras.
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Stratstone

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Pearl blue/blue hide. 1994L, 4000 miles. FMBSH 1 previous owner. AMG Wide Wheels £59,995
ask for David Holmes or Francis Symes
01625 522222

450 SLC
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94M	C280 Sport Imperial Red	14T	£23,250
95M	C220 Eleg Almandine Red	7T	£25,750
95M	C280 Eleg Blue Black, Lthr	13T	£33,950
95N	C36 Silver, High Spec	3T	P.O.A.
94M	E36 Silver, AMG, AC	19T	P.O.A.
94L	E220 Pearl Blue, Lthr	17T	£24,950
95M	E280 Silver	9T	£28,250
95M	E280 Onyx Grey	11T	£28,950
95M	E220 Coupe Blue Black	10T	£32,500
95M	E220 Cabrio Silver	10T	£39,950
95M	E320C Blue Black, AC	19T	£42,950
95M	E320C Tourmaline, Sp Line	12T	£44,850
95M	E220T Tourmaline	14T	£25,850
94L	E300TD Silver	23T	£26,950
95M	E320T Silver, Hi Spec	2T	£44,950
94M	S280 Pearl Blue	8T	£42,950
95M	S280 Azurite, AC	15T	£43,250
93L	500SEL B/Black, Hi Spec	35T	£57,950

0181 560 2151 AFTER HOURS 0831 812245

92K	190E 1.8 Pearl Grey	36T	£14,250
94M	C180 Eleg Brilliant Silver	6T	£20,950
95M	C180 Esprit Imperial Red	13T	£19,850
95N	C180 Sport Imperial Red	4T	£23,250
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95M	C220 Sport Tourmaline	10T	£24,950
95M	C280 Eleg Brilliant Silver	9T	£28,950
95M	E200 Brilliant Silver	8T	£21,750
95N	E200 Estate Onyx Grey	11T	£25,750
95M	E220 Smoke Silver	11T	£23,950
95N	E220 Coupe Azurite Blue	6T	£34,950
95N	E220 Spec Edition Blue Black	3T	£24,950
95N	E300D Estate Brilliant Silver	17T	£28,950
95M	E320 Brilliant Silver	13T	£32,950
95M	E320 Cabriolet Azurite Blue	20T	£POA
95M	E320 Coupe Azurite Blue	6T	£39,950
95M	E320 Coupe Brilliant Silver	7T	£41,950
95M	E320 Coupe Brilliant Silver	7T	£41,950
95M	S280 Brilliant Silver	16T	£42,950
94M	S280 Onyx Grey	18T	£44,950
95M	S420L Brilliant Silver	9T	£55,000

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95N	E200 SE Brilliant Silver	10T	£22,950
93K	220E Blue Black, Lthr, A/C	4T	£22,250
94L	E220 Brilliant Silver	29T	£21,950
94M	E220 White, Lthr, A/C	11T	£23,950
95N	E220 SE Brilliant Silver	3T	£24,950
92K	230E Almandine Red, Lthr	35T	£20,500
93L	200TE White	21T	£20,950
95M	E220T Brilliant Silver	12T	£28,950
92K	230TE White, Lthr	31T	£21,500
95M	E300TD Brilliant Silver	8T	£28,950
94M	E320T White, A/C	22T	£38,950
92K	300CE Blue Black, A/C	40T	£27,950
93L	E320 Coupe Blue Black	28T	£35,950
95M	E320 Cab Azurite Blue	6T	£46,950
95N	S280 Brilliant Silver	7T	£42,950
92K	300SE Brilliant Silver, A/C	36T	£19,950
95M	S420L Smoke Silver	25T	£54,950
93K	500SEL Black	28T	£46,950
91H	500SEC Blue Black	45T	£28,950
94L	S500 Coupe Blue Black	22T	£57,950
92J	500SL White	35T	£48,950

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Jacksons

95N	E280 Blue black, cream lthr, AMG body kit & wheels P.O.A.
96M	S280 B/black, cream lthr, clim, 5 Spd A, cruise P.O.A.
95M	E220 Cab Auto Blue black/ cream lthr, air con £42,950
95M	E220 Coupe Azurite, cream leather, very high spec £39,950
93L	S600 Coupe Pearl blue/ grey leather £59,950
93L	E320 Estate Smoke/cream lthr, very high spec £38,950
92K	500SE Silver/black hide, clim, alloys, mem sts, cd £46,950
88E	300SL White, blue cloth, 11,000 miles only £28,950

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FALCON

94 L C220 Elegance, Rosewood/ Med Red Cloth, Automatic, H/L/W/W, Passenger Airbag, OTG, RHR, 12T £21,950

94 L E300 D, Estate, Br Silver/Grey Cloth, Auto, R/FSeat, Alarm, Walnut, 24T £26,950

93 K 220 CE, Pearl Grey/Black Sport Cloth, Auto, 8 Hole Alloys, Walnut, 22T £23,950

90 H 500 SL, Almandine Red/Cream Leather, Automatic, Air Conditioning, ASR, Rear Seat, 20T £46,950

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BELTON ROAD, LOUGHBOROUGH
(AFTER HOURS [illegible])

GREENOAKS

92K	200TE Auto Bornite, R Seat, E/W, ESR, Stereo	44T	£18,950
93L	E200 Estate Auto Red, R/Seat, ESR, Stereo	33T	£19,950
95M	E200 Estate Auto Blue, R/Seat, ESR, FAR, OTG, Stereo	12T	£24,950
95N	E220 Estate Auto Silver, Sports Cloth, Walnut, R/Seat, Stereo	8T	£28,950
95N	E200 Estate Auto Tourmaline, R/Seat, Manual	2T	£29,950
92K	280TE Nautic, Hide, A/Con, R/Seat, Cruise, Walnut, OTG, IVM, HLWW	23T	£27,950
95M	E280 Estate Azurite, Hide, A/Con, R/Seat, Alloys, OTG	14T	£34,950
92J	300TE 24V Nautic, Sport Cloth, Walnut, R/Seat	52T	£22,950

Sunday 0378 229826 Mon-Sat 01753 554444

HUGHES

91H 500SL Auto, b/black, hide	£44,995
92K 300SL 24V. Auto, b/black	£46,995
89F 500SL Auto, silver, hide 36T	£27,995
93L S500C Auto, silver, hide, air	£57,995
90H 300SE Auto, blue/blue, 65T	£18,995
90H 300TE 24V. Auto, green/hide	£21,495
95M E280T. Auto, green, hide, air	£37,995
89F 230TE Auto, pearl blue, 63T	£13,995
95N E220T. Auto, Azurite, 7-seats	£30,995
94M E220T. Auto, b/silver, air, 13T	£28,995
92J 200TE. Auto, silver, 39T	£17,995
94L E320C. Auto, b/black, air	£36,995
94M E320 Coupe. Auto, b/silver	£47,995
90H 300CE Auto, diamond blue	£21,995
92J 300CE Auto, b/black, hide	£25,995
92K 230CE Anthracite/cream	£24,995
93K 220CE Silver/grey, 48T	£22,995
89F 300E. Auto, smoke silver	£14,495
93K 280E. Auto, b/black, grey	£22,495
94L E320. Silver/grey hide, alloys	£27,995
93L 320E. Auto, b/black/hide	£24,995
95M C220 Ele. Auto, Almandine	£24,995
94M C200 Ele. Auto, blue, 13T	£22,995
91J 190E 1.8. White, 21T	£11,995

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S600 (M) 95 Azurite/Grey Leather, ADS, E/Mem Seats (2) Auto Dip Mirror, E/Glass Sunroof, "Special" RDS Stereo, 8 hole Alloys, Htd Seats, 1,000 miles £72,950

S500CE (M) 94 Blue/Black, Cream leather, Climate, Door Closures, 22,000 miles £64,950

300SL 24V (J) 92 Signal Red/Cream leather, Rear seat, 8H Alloys, C.Cl, 34,000 miles £34,950

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94M S280 Brilliant Silver, Grey Hide, 8 Holes, Climate, 14T	£39,995
94M E320 Almandine, Cream Cloth, ESR, 8 Holes, Walnut, 1 Owner, 18T	£31,995
94M E280 Smoke Silver, Mushroom Hide, ESR, Walnut, 1 Owner, 15T	£27,995
95M E280T Auto Brilliant Silver, Grey Cloth, ESR, RFS, EWx4, 8T	£35,995
95M E280T Auto Almandine, Black Cloth, ESR, RFS, 4EW, FCA, 13T	£35,995
95M E200 Auto Onyx Grey, Electric Sunroof & Windows, 15T	[illegible]
94L E220 Auto Nautic, Grey Cloth, ESR, RHR, Walnut, Alarm, 17T	£28,995
93K 200E 5 Speed, Mantel White, Electric Windows, Electric Sunroof, 45T	£14,995
93L E220 Coupe Auto Almandine, Cream Cloth, 8 Holes, Walnut, ESR, 2 Own, 26T	£28,995
93K 230CE Auto Blue Black, Sportline Cloth, 8 Holes, Walnut, ESR, Alarm, 1 Own, 34T	£25,995
95M C220 Sport Brilliant Silver, Black Cloth, 4 x EW, ESR, FCA, 1 Owner, 12T	£24,995
94L C220 Elegance Auto Imperial Red, Mushroom Cloth, ESR, 1 Own, 17T	£22,995
93L 190E 2.0 Manual Black, Cream Hide, Airbag, ABS, ESR, 24T	£15,495
93K 190E 2.0 Auto Malachite, Mushroom Cloth, ESR, ABS, 1 Owner, 38T	£15,495
92K 190E 1.8 White, Blue Cloth, MSR, 1 Owner, 24T	£13,995

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190E 91H Auto Blue 33,000 miles FSH Electric Sunroof £12,450 0181 870 9811 Sunday 0836 626481

L	500SL Superb Spec	Due
93	500SL Total Spec	£59,995
H	500SL Hide Air Cond ASR 25T	£46,995
92	500SE Climate, Hide, Hi Spec	£42,995
92	300SL Good Spec	£42,995
94	S280 Auto Hide, 8,000mls	£36,995
L	320 Cab Total Spec	£43,995
92	300SE (W126) Hide, AMG	£24,995
F	300SE Hide, High Spec	£14,995
95	E280T Total Spec, 8,000mls	P.O.A
93	300TD Auto, High Spec	£24,995
M	E300D Auto, Hide, Spec, 12T	£25,995
G	280GEL Hide, Superb Spec	£13,995
95	E320 Coupe High Spec, 13T	P.O.A
94	E320 Auto, High Spec	£28,995
93	320E Auto, High Spec	£25,995
95	E280 Total Spec	P.O.A
L	280E Auto Hide, Good Spec	£25,995
K	230E Air Conditioning	£19,995
95	220TE High Spec	P.O.A
L	280TE Auto, High Spec	£30,995
K	200E AMG Styling, 16,000mls	£19,995
H	C280 Sport Auto, Hide, Hi Spec	P.O.A
95	C280 Elegance Superb Spec	P.O.A
M	C280 Eleg Auto, Air Plus 9T	£28,995
M	E220 Coupe Auto, Good Spec	£39,995
95	C220 Sport Auto, Good Spec	£24,995
94/95	E200/220 Selection	
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500SEL 92K Smoke Silver /Brazil Leather. Front & rear Climate Control. Elec Front Seats with Memory. Elec Rear Seat. Charcoal filter. Elec Rear Roller Blind. Becker Mexico Stereo £39,995 Gerard Mann - Birmingham 0121 327 8902/4411

SL320 94M. Imperial Red / Cream Leather. 5 Spd Auto. Rear Child Seat. 8 Hole Alloys £54,995 Gerard Mann - Birmingham 0121 327 8902/4411

92J 600 SEL. Pearl blue. Cream Hide. 8HA. Stereo. Rear Climate Control Stereo. 30T. £48,995. 01293 551733, 0836 288445

PENTAGON

600SEC 93L Almandine, extras 6T	£75,000
500SL 95 Tourmaline, climate .6T	P.O.A.
S320 95 Azurite, high spec ... 3T	P.O.A.
380SL 83 Silver blue, alts + .. 87T	£14,880
500SL 85 Willow met, lthr + .. 48T	£19,880
300TD 95N Tourmaline, vlr spec .. 5T	£37,980
300TD 93 Nautic, diesel ++ .. 26T	£24,980
220E man 93 Bornite, sline, AIR 65T	£17,980
E320 Cpe 95 Azurite, AIR, sline 5T	£44,880
C220D El man 95 Smoke, lthr 14T	£23,880
230GES man 88 White, steps 71T	£18,980

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92(K) 190E 2.0 Black/Cream	£16,450
93(L) 190E 2.0 Blue/Black, Auto	£14,950
90(G) 190 Red/Cream Cth, Auto, AC	£12,950
91(H) 190E Auto, Elec Windows	£12,450
95(M) C180 Saloon Dk.Blue/Lt.Marine	£19,995
94(M) C180 Auto, M.B. Tax	£20,450
95(M) C180 Eleg Imp. Red/Grey Cloth	£21,995
94(L) C200 Eleg Blue, Auto	£21,450
95(M) C250D Eleg B/Blk/Grey Cloth	£24,995
95(M) E250D Saloon B/Blk/Hide, AC	£30,995
94(L) E280 Saloon B/B, Cream Hide, CC	£27,995
95(M) E200SE B/B S/Roof	£22,750
95(M) E220SE Black, Air Con	£25,495
90(G) 300SE Saloon Grey/Grey Cth	£17,995
94(M) S320 Limo Silver/Grey Hide	£49,950
93(K) 300SL Sport Red/Cre Hide AC	£48,995
91(H) 500SL White, Air Con	£47,500
95(M) E220 Cabriolet	£49,995
93(L) 320 Cabriolet Silver	£35,995
95(M) 320 Cabriolet Silver/Hide	P.O.A
95(M) 320 Coupe AC, 5Spd, Auto	£49,995

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93L C180 Esprit Auto Met, 8 h/a's	21T	£17,950
94M C180 Elegance Auto hide	18T	£19,950
95M C180 Elegance Auto	11T	£21,950
95M C220 Elegance Auto Met	8T	£25,950
95M C220 Elegance Auto	4T	£25,950
95M C250D Elegance Auto Met, hide	4T	£27,950
93L 220E Auto, Met, ww, rhr	25T	£18,950
95M E220 Auto Met, esr, a/c	12T	£24,950
94M E220T Auto Met, rs, fsr	16T	£24,950
92K 230TE Auto a/c, ww, fsr	29T	£22,950
94L E320T Met, hide, 8 h/a's, cc	33T	£34,950
94L E320T a/c, rs, cc, 8 h/a's	17T	£35,950
95M E220C Auto, ww, fsr	8T	£29,950
93L E320C Met, hide, 8 h/a's	25T	£37,950
94L S320L hide, clim, a/w	11T	£48,850
92K 600SEL High Spec	57T	£52,950
90G 300SL 24V hide, 5 Spd Auto	51T	£28,850
95M SL280 hide, clim, rs	2T	£53,950
94M SL320 Met, rs, 8 h/a's	16T	£57,950
89G 500SL Met, hide, a/c	38T	£49,950
92K 500SL hide, a/c, 8 h/a's, rs	27T	£57,950
93L SL500 Met, hide, 8 h/a's, clim	13T	£66,850
95M SL500 hide, rs, clim, 8 h/a's	2T	£75,950
95M SL60AMG hide, clim	1T	£POA

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92K	190E 2.0 Auto Signal Red, Grey Cloth, EW, SR, ABS	54k	£16,995
92J	190E 2.0 Black, Grey Cloth, MSR, EW x 2, ABS, Auto	44k	£16,495
92J	190E 2.0 Auto Padget Red, Cream Cloth, ESR, EW, ABS, Alarm	49k	£14,995
89F	190E 2.0 Auto 89MY Smoke Silver, Mushroom Cloth, ESR, EW	79k	£9,995
91H	190E 2.6 Auto Nautic Blue, Cream Cloth, ESR, EW, RHR	42K	£13,950
95M	C180 Eleg Auto Tourmaline Green, Grey Cloth, ESR, EW x 4, Alarm, Music	15k	£22,995
94L	C180 Classic Black, Black Cloth, Auto, ESR, Music, Alarm, Duchatalet	18k	£19,995
95M	C200 Eleg Imperial Red, Grey Cloth, Auto, ESR, EWs x 4, Stereo, 1 Onr	17k	£22,995
94M	C200 Brilliant Silver, Black Cloth, Stereo, Alarm	13k	£19,995
95M	C220 Sport Azurite Blue, Black Lthr, Auto EWs x 4, FAR, C/C, AMG Alloys		£29,995
95M	C220 Diesel Eleg Auto, Pearl Blue, Grey Cloth	14k	£22,950
93L	200E Auto Silver, Black Cloth, Elec S/Roof, RHR, FAR, Walnut, Alarm	21K	£19,995
92K	230E Signal Red, Cream Cloth, Auto, Walnut, ABS, EWs x 4, ESR	36k	£19,995
93L	250D White, Blue Cloth, Auto, ESR, EWx4	24k	£21,950
92K	230CE Auto, Met Blue, Blue Cloth, 8 Hole, Alloys	43k	£22,995
95M	300D Est B/Black, Cream Cloth, C/C, Stereo, Alarm, IVM, HLWW, Wal	15k	£29,995
95N	E220 Auto, Almandine, Cream Cloth, 5 Spoke Alloys, Air Bags, Alarm	2k	£26,995
95M	E220 Imperial Red, Cream Cloth, Auto, FAR, OTG, Wal, Spkrs	12k	£24,995
95M	E220 Blue Black, Cream Cloth, Auto, Wal, Front Armrest, Stereo	12k	£24,995
95N	C280 AMG Sport Auto, Azurite Blue, Black Leather, Full AMG Styling	5k	£38,995
95M	E280 Blue Black, Grey Leather, Auto, 8 Hole Alloys, Stereo	10k	£29,995
95M	E250D Imperial Red, Cr Cloth, Anti Theft, HLWW, ISW & GS	10k	£24,995
95M	E250D Almandine Red, Cr Cloth, Anti Theft, HLWW, ISW & GS	10k	£24,995
95M	E200 Est Auto Almandine, Cream Cloth, ESR, EW x 4, Rear Seats	8k	£25,995
95M	E200 Est Auto, Tourmaline, Black Cloth, Rear Seat	12k	£25,995
95N	E300D Auto Imperial Red, Black Cloth, Air Con, 8H Alloys, CD	4k	£33,995
93L	E320 Coupe Black, Cream Leather, Stereo, AMG	20k	£36,995
91J	300SE Almandine, Grey Cloth, Auto, Alloys	38k	£19,995
89G	300SE Anthracite, Cream Lthr, Auto, Stereo, ESR, cc, 2 owners	59k	£16,995
92J	300SE Grey, Blue Lthr, Auto, 15H Alloys, ABS, EWs, HLWW, Stereo, ESR	33k	£19,995
94M	S500 Smoke Silver, Mush Hide, Climate, ESR, cc, HLWW, 8 Hole Alloys	6k	£59,995
94L	SL280 Nautic, Cream Lthr, Blue Soft Top, 8H Alloys, Auto, HFS, C/C	10k	£46,995
95M	SL600 95MY Imperial Red, Mushroom Hide, Climate, ADS, ESP	1k	POA
92K	500SEL Nautic Blue, Mushroom Lthr, Climate, Closers, R/Blind, 8 Holes	32k	£48,995
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93L	BMW 3.18 Coupe Green Metallic, Grey Velour, Alloys, Hi-Tech Suspension	20k	£17,995
93L	BMW 3.16 Lux Estate Auto Red, Grey Cloth, PAS, ABS, EW	30k	£14,995
92K	Lexus LS400 Metallic Red, Cream Hide	49k	£23,995
95M	Aston Martin Volante Suffolk Red, Magnolia Hide	1k	£104,995
88E	Porsche 928 S2 Silver, Black Leather, Air Con, 1 Owner	14k	£19,99
94M	Porsche 911 Tip Tronic S 95MY Ins Blue, Black Lthr, Full Body Styling	10k	£57,995

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92J 600SEL Pearl Blue, Cream Hide, 8HA, RCC Stereo, Rear Climate Control, 30T .. £45,995
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95M	S500L Azurite	2T	£74,995
93L	S500 Coupe B/Black	22T	£59,995
91H	300SL Nautic Blue	39T	£36,995
92J	420SEC Blue Black	36T	£29,995
84B	380SL Signal Red	81T	£14,995
95M	E320 Cpe Onyx	9T	£46,995
94L	E320 Cpe Imperial	14T	£34,995
92K	230CE Almandine	26T	£23,995
93K	230CE Pajez	22T	£23,995
89F	300CE Signal Red	72T	£15,995
92J	300SE Pearl Blue	48T	£29,995
92K	300E Beryl	59T	£20,995
92K	300TE Nautic	42T	£24,995
95M	E200 Est Blue, A/C	10T	£24,995
94L	E200 Estate Black	10T	£23,995
93L	200TE 16V B/Black	18T	£22,995
93L	190E 2.0 LE Azzuro	8T	£18,995

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88K	'G' WAGON 300 GES Blue Black, Grey 'K', W/Alloys, ESR, B/Bar	33T £22,995
95M	E200 16 V Est White, Grey, 'K', ESR, RF Seat, EWX4, OTG, D/Seats, RSI	15T £24,995
94M	E280 24 V Bornite, M/R Hide, 'K', 8H, Wal, ESR, RHR, A/Bags, C/Box, RSI	17T £27,995
94M	E220 16 V Tourmaline, M/Room 'K', Wal, A/Bags, RHR, IVM, FAR, RSI	only 7T £DUE
94L	E220 Coupe B/Black, Grey Hide, A, Sportline, 8H, Wal, RHR, FAR, RSI	value £25,995
95K	C280 ELE Sportline, Almandine, M/room Hide, 'K', A/Con, 8 H, D/Seats, HLWW etc	5T £34,995
93K	300 TD Est B/Silver, Blue, 'K', RF Seat, 8H, A/Bag, RSI, Alarm, Rear Car	only 25T £24,495
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92J	300SE Arctic White, Grey, 'K' EF Seats, Alloys, Wal, HLWW, Magnificent	34T £21,995
86D	420SL B/Black, Hide, 'K', R/Seat, Alloys, C/C, HLWW, Alloys, CD, Magnificent	only 35T £22,495
92K	300SL Signal Red, M/room Hide, 'K', R/Seat, A/Con, 8 Holes, A/Bag, HLWW, CD	15T £44,995
89G	500SL Pearl Grey, Blue Hide, 'K', A/C, EF/Seats, Col & Mirror, 1 Owner, [illegible]	22T £45,995

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90G	500SL Blue Black, Leather, R/Seat, ASR, A/C, A/B, CD	58T	£39,950
94L	S280 Black, Mushroom Leather, Climate, ESR, Stereo	23T	£36,950
92K	230TE Pearl Blue, Rear Seat, Alloys, Walnut, Auto	31T	£21,950
91J	230TE Pearl Blue, Rear Seat, Walnut, FAR, Auto	54T	£16,950
93K	320CE Malachite, Lthr, A/C, Sportline, 5 Spd A, EDS, CD	21T	£32,950
90 mod	300CE Smoke, Lthr, elec Seats, Wal, Alloys, ASD	65T	£16,950
95N	E320 Coupe Onyx, Lthr Wal, Spline, 17" AMG Alloys	3T	£38,950
94L	E220 Coupe Pearl Blue, Lthr, Spline, Walnut	11T	£28,950
94M	E280 Estate Silver, Rear Seat, Cruise, Walnut	16T	£29,950
92K	300E Pearl Blue, 8 Hole Alloys, Wal, RHR, Auto	42T	£20,950
95M	E280 Azurite, Lthr, air con, 8 hole alloys	16T	£29,950
95M	C280 Eleg Pearl Blue, Grey Lthr, IVM, S/Seat, Auto	3T	£29,950
95N	C220 Eleg Blue/Black, Mushroom Leather, Auto	2T	£27,500
95M	C180 Eleg Onyx, Remote Locking, RHR, Auto	3T	£21,950
95M	C180 Eleg Black, Mirroor Interior, Remote Locks, RHR	2T	£21,950
93L	190E Limited Edition Azzuro Blue, Full LE Spec	24T	£15,950

94M	SL500 Blue Black, Cream Hide, R/Sts, Climate, Htd seats	16T	£64,995
94L	300SE Nautic, Grey Hide, Climate, 8 Holes	26T	£38,995
93K	300SE Pearl Grey, Grey Hide, 8 Holes, Alarm	4T	£37,995
92J	300SE Silver, Grey Hide, Air Con, Alloys	48T	£21,995
95M	SL60 Azurite, Cream Hide, Climate	2T	£94,995
94M	SL320 Silver, Blue Hide, Climate, R/Sts	7T	£57,995
92K	300SL Signal Red, Cream Hide, R/Sts, 8 Hs, Alloys	27T	£41,995
92K	300TE Almandine, Grey Hide, A/C, R/Seats, Alloys	28T	£28,495
93L	320CE Pearl Blue, Cream Hide, A/C, 8H	15T	£34,995
93K	300CE Black, Black Hide Elec Sts, 8 Hole	20T	£27,995
90G	300CE Nautic, Cream Hide, 8 Holes	48T	£19,995
94L	E280 Almandine, Cream Hide, 5Spd, Auto, 8Hole	24T	£25,995
94M	C280 Eleg Blue Black, Grey Cloth, Auto	7T	£25,995
94M	C180 Eleg Auto White, Blue Cloth	7T	£20,995
92J	190E 2.0 Auto Midnight Blue, Grey Cloth, ESR	35T	£14,995
93K	190E 1.8 Auto, Midnight Blue, Grey Cloth, EPW	29T	£14,495
91J	190E 1.8 Auto, Midnight Blue, Cream Cloth, ESR	34T	£12,995
92K	190E 1.8 Manual, White, Blue Cloth, ESR	24T	£12,995

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Britain's super agent switches to a BMW for his latest film. **Steve Hughes** discovers that it's a glittering glint in *GoldenEye*

Charisma enough for Bond

By the time BMW's bargain basement roadster goes on sale here it will already be a familiar sight on the Continent, and the latest James Bond movie — in which it stars — will have been out on video for months.

Even this time next year, some of those clamouring to part with deposits for the charismatic newcomer will still be waiting. BMW, whose total sales in the UK will top 50,000 this year for the first time, has already signed up 1,400 eager souls whose only experience of the car is what they have read.

With price likely to be less than £20,000 for a stunning rag-top — with no fewer than eight of the famous blue, black and white circular badges fitted to its flared flanks and over-sized wheels — they are hardly taking a gamble. This is not only a BMW, it is a car which dares to be different . . . and it works. Nostalgia buffs can overdose on its likeness to classic BMWs of a bygone age, especially the evocative 507 roadster of the 1950s.

No other roadster in this price range makes such a bold styling statement. Even when standing still, there is a fluidity to the exaggerated contours of the Z3's curvaceous bodywork which suggests movement, as though it is perpetually fired-up and raring to go.

The Z3 is assembled far from BMW's Bavarian headquarters. The little-known town of Spartanburg in South Carolina is where BMW's futuristic factory has lured former textile workers to produce not only the head-turning Z3, but also 3-Series models.

If the eagerness of BMW's quality-control associates is anything to go by, by the time Z3 production reaches maximum output of about 30,000 next year, the 2,000 models bound for the UK should be excellent. They will be among the most rigid and safest affordable sports cars in the world, with a huge amount of strengthening stuffed into the bodywork to make the roofless Z3 just 105 kilogrammes lighter than the hatchback Compact upon which it is based. The is a car as taut as a gymnast's biceps.

Unlike the mid-engined MGF, there is a conventional front engine, rear-wheel-drive layout for the Z3, which nonetheless achieves equal front and rear weight distribution. Despite the constraint of using the Compact's floorpan, the Z3's flamboyant styling enables it to steal an extra 254mm between the front and rear wheels and valuable additional width between the rear wheels.

This combination, allied to fine tuning of the Compact's semi-trailing arm suspension, positive power-assisted rack and pinion steering and hugely powerful anti-lock disc brakes, makes for pure motoring hedonism. The Z3 is not merely a means of transport, with its dynamics living up to the considerable promise of its looks. This is a car that begs to be driven, engaging its occupants in its every function.

Matched in performance by a mid-range Mondeo or Vectra, the sensation of exhilaration in a Z3 is exaggerated by its remarkable proximity to the tarmac, with seats positioned below the hefty ankle-cracking side sills. The minimal instrumentation includes a rev counter red-lined at 6,000rpm, to which the engine whizzes without a murmur. Such eagerness, allied to a slick five-speed gearchange via a short, stubby lever encourages frequent if unnecessary changes, just for the hell of it.

The steering needs only 2.8 turns lock to lock, while the ABS four-disc braking system comes from the heavier 318ti Compact. So the Z3 is a flying machine whose only limitation is the skill of its pilot.

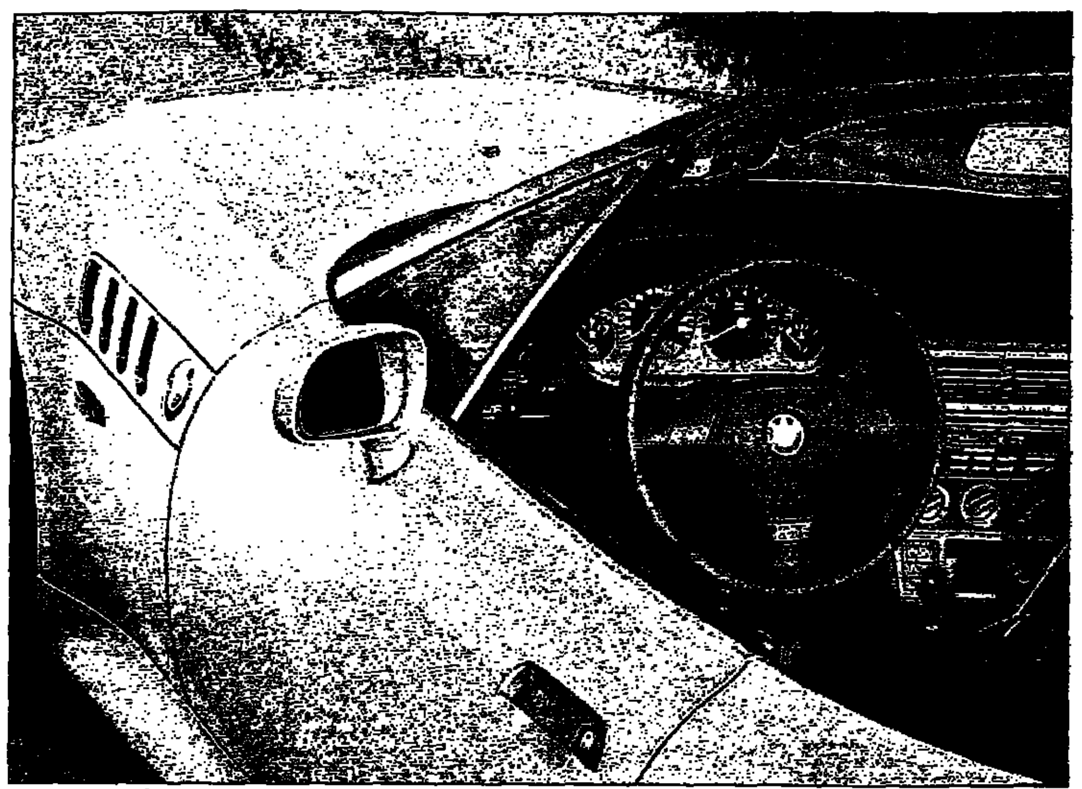
Active and passive safety are there in abundance, with the steel shell incorporating front and rear crumple zones, side impact bars for the doors, anti-submarining seats, and seat belt pre-tensioners to complement the dual airbags.

Unlike the Mercedes SL, there is no pop-up roll-over bar, with the tubular tensioned windscreen frame designed to do the same job. It incorporates a couple of hooks for the single-layer hood, which boasts an unusually large plastic rear window for exceptional all-round visibility and a non-claustrophobic interior.

BMW says the car will sell in the UK at below £20,000, but can that be done? Existing owners are well versed in the art of securing the car of their dreams at an acceptable price, only to double it with irresistible costly add-ons. Those who aspire to creating the ultimate Z3 in this way will be afforded every opportunity.

Does not the evocative air-vent fluting on the sides of the bonnet cowling cry out to be chromed? And, if so, should not the matt black windscreen frame receive similar treatment, together with the door handles, and perhaps a chrome-plated rear luggage rack to boot?

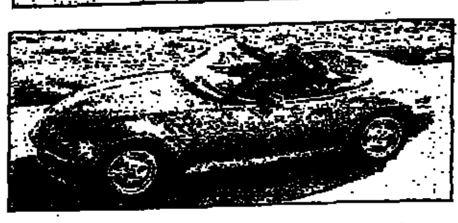
Add a choice of wood trimmings, leather upholstery, heated seats, cruise control, air conditioning, four-speed automatic transmission and next year's optional power roof or hard top, and the concept of BMW's give-away roadster seems a mite ambitious.



Style statement: the BMW Z3 begs to be driven, engaging its occupants in every function

Flying high in *GoldenEye*: for his new movie, James Bond has a car whose only limitation is the skill of its pilot

BMW ROADSTER Z3



Prices: Probably under £20,000 basic. Up to £30,000 for models with every option available in the Bond toolbox. On sale from August next year and in competition with Rover's MGF and the long-time leader in the segment, the Mazda MX-5.

Engines: New four-cylinder, 16-valve 1.9-litre mounted up front but driving the rear wheels through a five-speed manual gearbox or optional four-speed automatic, developing 140bhp at 6,000rpm.

Performance: 0-60mph in 9.3 seconds, top speed 127mph, average fuel consumption 34.5 miles to the gallon.

Equipment: Twin airbags, anti-lock brakes, central locking, power steering, electric operations for windows, mirrors and driver's seat, plus countless options.

Future: Look for 2.8-litre, six-cylinder, version in 1997, offering 0-60mph in 6.5 seconds and top speed of 140mph.

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HIL 8975	175
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DUI 607	210
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STEERING COLUMN: Rally driver **Colin McRae** talks to Rupert Saunders

Tomorrow, Chester; next day, the world

Colin McRae starts the Network Q RAC Rally in Chester tomorrow favourite to win the event and odds-on to become the first British World Rally Champion. He is currently equal top of the championship table with his Subaru team-mate, Carlos Sainz.

When he won last year's RAC Rally, McRae became only the second British driver to achieve victory since 1959, the other being the legendary Roger Clark who won in 1972 and 1976. On the other hand, British co-drivers have won the event on a regular basis, usually navigating for Scandinavian drivers.

McRae comes from a rallying family. His father, Jim, gave up plumbing to turn professional and was British Rally Champion five times, but could only achieve third on the RAC Rally in 1983. Colin's younger brother, Alister, is the current British Champion and will drive a Ford Escort Cosworth in this year's event.

Now 27, McRae's motorsport career began riding motocross bikes at the age of 12, but he switched to four-wheel sport when he was 16. He joined the Oxfordshire-based Subaru World Rally Team in 1991 and won the British Rally Championship twice before taking his first World Championship win, in New Zealand in 1993.

Born and bred in Lanark, Scotland, McRae now lives in Monaco but spends most of his year travelling. This year, in addition to the World Rally Championship, he has also contested the Asia-Pacific Rally Championship in which he is currently second with one round to go.

Over the next four days, McRae and co-driver Derek Ringer will drive their 300 horsepower, specially prepared Subaru Impreza almost 1,500 miles around Britain contesting the 28 high-speed special stages over which the rally result will be decided. There are 190 entries on the event, from humble privateers — including German driving instructor, Michael Kahlfuss, in a Trabant — to the most sophisticated factory-based teams. But, for most of the two million spectators expected to line the route, McRae will carry British hopes when the rally finishes back in Chester on Wednesday.

How did you first learn to drive?

By watching other people and then trying to do it myself. Just as soon as my feet could touch the pedals, I could drive — in the driveway, round a field or wherever.

What was your first car?

My first proper car for the road was a Ford Capri, but I had a Mini Cooper which I used for Autotests when I was 16. Before that we had loads of old bangers which we used to race up and down the field when we were 14 or 15. We used to buy them at the market or use the old vans from work that were scrap, sort them out and race them.

What cars do you drive now and why?

I've got a Subaru Impreza, a TVR and about seven motorbikes; a Honda Fireblade, a Kawasaki 600 and then some enduro bikes, some motocross bikes and a couple of pocket bikes. The Subaru is part of my contract and I drive it regularly, but I bought the TVR because I liked the look of it. I haven't driven it much but it's obviously a very fast car, convertible, good fun. I keep the TVR and one of the bikes in Monaco, the rest are in Scotland.

Wheel-based: "Just as soon as my feet could touch the pedals, I could drive — in the driveway, round a field or wherever"

Do you like driving?

Yes, I enjoy all sorts of driving. Sometimes I enjoy driving on the motorway, on my own, listening to music. I enjoy going out on the back road, going a bit quicker than you should and having a bit of fun. Mind you, the bit I don't enjoy on the RAC rally is the long road sections between the competitive special stages.

What's your worst habit in a car?

Very impatient. I hate traffic jams. I would rather be on an open road with nobody there.

What's you most hated car?

I don't think I've got anything against any particular car. Every one has its purpose in life, doesn't it? I don't like big, big saloon cars, like Mercedes or Rolls-Royce. I don't think I'd have one of them.

What is your dream car?

Any sort of sports car, Ferrari or Porsche; something a bit different. The TVR's good because there are not many of them. In Monaco you can be driving down the street among the Ferraris and everybody looks at the TVR.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Drivers who are not paying attention to where they're going, like Sunday drivers. They're driving far too slowly, people have to try to overtake them and that causes accidents. Also people who pull out in front of me when I'm on my motorbike. Too many people drive along without paying attention. They're too busy looking at things at the side of the road.

What's the most unusual thing you've done in a car?

Nothing that I can tell you about! I just use the car for its normal purpose.

Have you had any points on your driving licence?

None at the moment, but I have had some in the past, when I was young and not so sensible.

What do you listen to in the car?

Any type of music really. If I had to take one tape with me I'd probably take some rock or blues, depending on what kind of mood I'm in. There's no particular band.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Raise the speed limit on motorways and then I wouldn't have had any points on my licence! Seriously, in good driving conditions, 70mph is too slow on a motorway. I think 90mph is a good speed; like you have some places on the Continent where you can go 81mph in the dry, but if it rains you have to slow to 62mph, which is sensible.

What car advert do you dislike most?

I've been out of the country so much, I couldn't even tell you what car ads there are.

DR DASHBOARD

Making tracks from the farm to the life of rally

Q My son learnt to drive on farm tracks. He's just passed his test and fancies himself as the next Colin McRae. How does he get in to rallying?

A There's a lot more to rallying than driving on farm tracks, but the doctor is never one to stifle youthful enthusiasm. Find out where your nearest motor club is and ask if they organise Autotests or navigation rallies. So long as these events are properly supervised, it's a good, safe way to begin.

Q So what are the basic qualifications for tearing round pine woods faster than the motorway speed limit?

A The best beginning is to learn to drive in a field rather than on the road, so your son has a start there. All rally champions seem to have grown up on farms — or in Scandinavia.

Q But doesn't he need a special car to enter these first events?

A The beauty of starting at club level is that you can find out if you've really got an aptitude using an ordinary road car, without investing in a lot of special equipment.

Q You mean he's going to tear round the countryside in my little saloon?. What happens in these events?

A An Autotest is a timed event round a coned-off route in a field or car park. It's more a test of accuracy and dexterity than speed, but those are key elements in rallying. It can be done perfectly well in a road car, although if you take part in a lot of such events it's advisable to get the suspension strengthened. Navigation rallies are vital practice for would-be co-drivers.

Q So what's all this business about roll bars and engine tuning?

A Don't worry about that unless he moves on to the next stage or goes in to Autocross or Rallycross.

Q I'm getting a bit confused with all these terms. How do they work?

A Autocross is similar in principle to an Autotest but with more emphasis on speed. Don't let him try that in the family runabout; it's punishing stuff for car and driver. Rallycross is a straight race, six or so cars at a time, on a track partly of tarmac and partly gravel, very spectacular and can't be done without a special car.

Q Is there anywhere I can go for more expert advice on all these events?

A The RAC Motor Sport Association publishes a booklet, *Starting Motorsport*. They can also tell you where your nearest car club is based. Contact the RACMSA at Motor Sports House, Riverside Park, Colnbrook, Slough SL3 0HG.

Q What about getting expert tuition? Are there schools of rallying?

A Quite a few, and again the RACMSA will tell you where the nearest one is. Some of the best are in Mid-Wales, where Britain's best rallying country is found. They include: The Forest Experience (01686 420201) and the Phil Price School (01547 550300) both in Powys; Chris Birkbeck International Rally School, Cleveland, (01287 677512); Airikkala Technique, Berkshire, (01628 778808); Bill Gwynne Rally School, Oxfordshire, (01295 251201); Silverstone Rally School, Northamptonshire (01327 857271).

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